34 dead, 224 hurt in Baghdad suicide bombings

Story in World, PAGE A8

6 lawmakers change stand on impeach rap

By Cynthia D. Balana and Martin P. Marfil

WHERE is the white-out marker when you need it most?

Six congressmen from different political parties withdrew their signatures from the

6 LAWMAKERS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS; FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 28, 2003 ★★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 322 P15

Peso closes at record low of 55.50 to dollar

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

THE PESO is in worse shape now than during the darkest days of the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

A looming political crisis over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. coupled with a big demand for US dollars yesterday dragged the peso

PESO/A6

Davide declares war

GMA sheds neutrality, stands by SC chief

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Tarra Quismundo

HIS SPIRITS high amid an outpouring of support, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday declared war on those who seek to destroy democracy.

Davide said he would "fight all the way, until where they will go."

He did not name names but he was apparently referring to members of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition who initiated the impeachment move against him on the ground that he engaged in the questionable disbursement of the Judiciary Development Fund.

"If by doing it is really to fight, yes I have declared war against those who will destroy our democracy," the Chief Justice said. "This should be the war of all leaders of the country, of all government officials."

Davide saw for himself the outpouring of support with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo joining him at a Mass right after the flag-raising at the Supreme Court compound on Padre Faura Street in Manila.

"I am glad that she has decided to join all these efforts now to avert a huge constitutional crisis," Davide told reporters before the Mass, which was officiated by activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

Ms Macapagal, who was in a green outfit, stood beside Davide throughout the Mass, and held his hand as she sang "The Lord's Prayer" along with some 500 court employees and supporters, who all wore black to express their support for Davide.

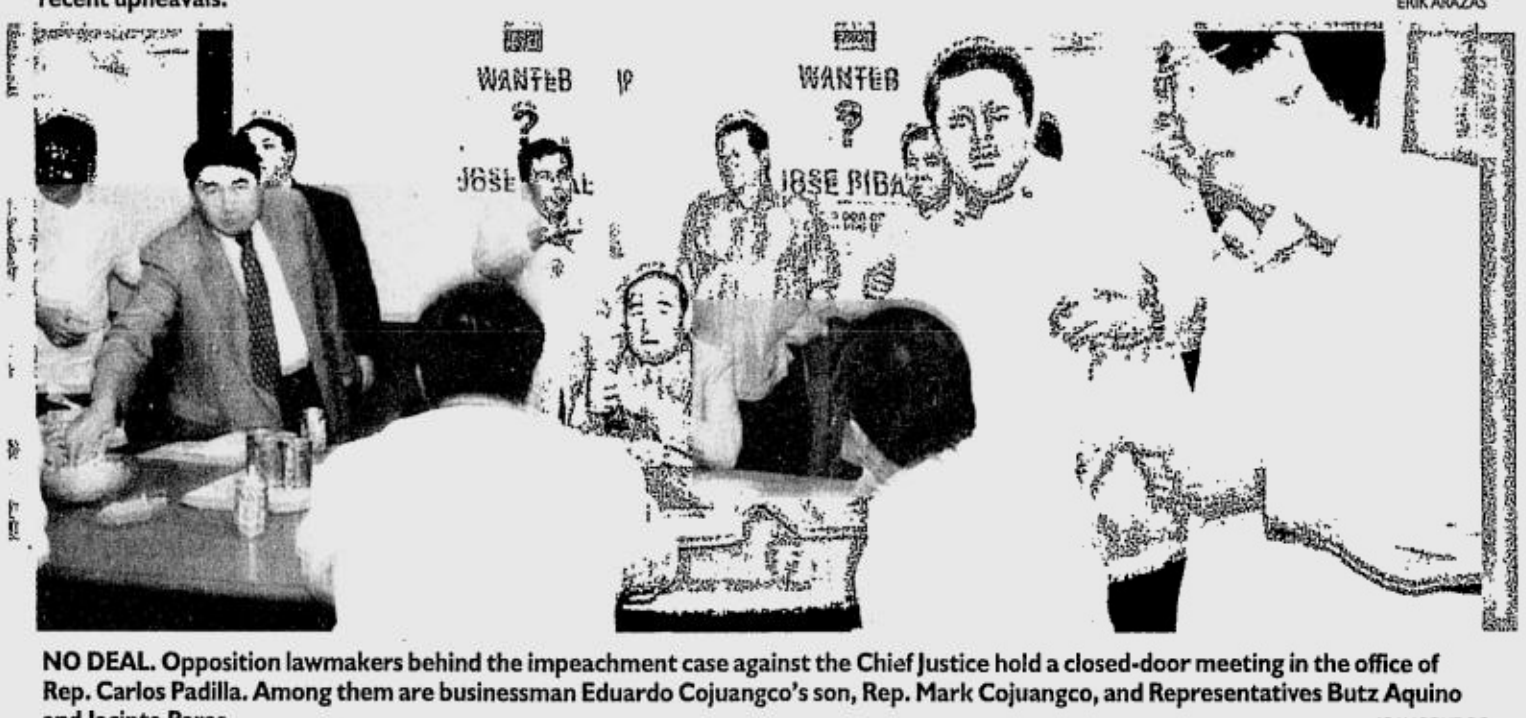
Ms Macapagal came with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus Jr., Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Flanking Ms Macapagal and Davide were Justices Adolfo Azcuna,

DAVIDE/ A17

PRESIDENT Macapagal stands by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. who is cheered by Supreme Court employees and supporters on Monday. The storm over Davide has deepened political divisions in the country and spooked financial markets still recovering from recent upheavals.

ERIK ARAZAS



NO DEAL. Opposition lawmakers behind the impeachment case against the Chief Justice hold a closed-door meeting in the office of Rep. Carlos Padilla. Among them are businessman Eduardo Cojuangco's son, Rep. Mark Cojuangco, and Representatives Butz Aquino and Jacinto Paras.

JOAN BONDOC

Win-win solution eludes GMA, JDV

By Juliet L. Javellana and Carlito Pablo

ABANDONING her neutral stance, President Macapagal-Arroyo took a direct hand in the impeachment crisis yesterday, but the negotiations she helped start to forge a settlement reached an impasse last night.

The stalemate in the negotiations being mediated by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. between congressmen and the Supreme Court also prevented the House of Representatives from officially transmitting the Articles of Impeachment against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to the Senate.

After attending Mass at the Supreme Court grounds with Davide, the President justified her

WIN-WIN/ A17

Impeach bid killed Cha-cha, says senator

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DAVIDE impeachment drive in Congress has wrought collateral damage on something close to the heart of many congressmen: Charter change.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday said that the "ease and speed" with which Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was impeached by the House of Representatives last week has "dealt a fatal blow to Charter change (Cha-cha)."

IMPEACH/ A4

Opposition: We were challenged, even provoked by Davide

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

STANDING in the center of a gathering storm of public outrage, congressmen who voted to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday continued to press their case.

Davide "had it coming," said Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, as he and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla explained the passage of the second impeachment complaint.

"We were challenged," even provoked by Davide, Remulla said at the weekly Kapihan news forum at the Manila Hotel.

And despite growing opposition led by former President Corazon Aquino and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, the influential leaders behind Edsa I and II, the two lawmakers said that the pro-impeachment congressmen would not chicken out.

"We're acting for the people," Jaraula emphasized.

Both denied that the congressmen had received P5 million each in exchange for their signatures. "I signed because of what I saw," said Jaraula.

OPPOSITION/ A4

Cory leads pro-Davide rally at House

By Volt Contreras

ONCE more wielding her tested People Power influence, former President Corazon C. Aquino led about 1,500 members of civil society to the front yard of the House of Representatives yesterday to pressure some congressmen into withdrawing their impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

At a prayer rally that hailed Davide as a hero and the Supreme Court a stabilizing presence in Philippine democracy, Aquino urged all lawmakers "to think through this complaint very thoroughly and to pray for guidance so that reason and not sheer force of numbers will inform their judgment."

She warned that the constitutional crisis that may arise from the complaint would further batter the country and its

CORY/ A17

FORMER President Corazon Aquino wears black during a rally at the Batasan to try to convince lawmakers to withdraw their impeachment case against Davide.

PRESIDENTIAL aspirant Raul Roco expresses full support for Davide during the same rally before the House of Representatives in Quezon City.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Groundswell of support from all over country

By the PDI Bureaus

SUPPORT for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is gathering momentum across the country, with lawyers staging a noise barrage in Cebu and a militant group holding a caravan in Bacolod.

Thousands of judges, lawyers, court workers and members of civil society wore black shirts and armbands in Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao to show their support for the Chief Justice, who is facing impeachment.

Following the lead of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, two bishops rallied behind Davide, branding his impeachment by the House of Representatives an attack on democracy.

Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the "reckless attack by certain congressmen" against Davide was "an ominous sign of worse things to come."

GROUNDSWELL/ A4

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/28/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

RP seeks FBI help vs terror

By Christian Esguerra, Alcuin Papa, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINES has sought the assistance of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation in its manhunt for operatives of the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah in the country.

Military and police operatives have been mobilized to track down the JI operatives in Mindanao as well as in Metro Manila.

Among those being hunted is the younger brother of Indonesian bomb maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi identified as Muhajir, alias Idris, a demolitions expert and a senior JI member.

Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the FBI assistance would mainly be in the form of intelligence information to enable local police to establish the identities and whereabouts of the JI operatives.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday admitted that the military's failure so far to establish the identities of the 30 suspected JI operatives would make it difficult to hunt them down.

"It will be hard to locate the nameless and faceless targets, but I have faith in our intelligence agents," he said, adding: "We will publish them as soon as we get their identities and pictures."

Matillano said the FBI might also lend sophisticated equipment to the local police.

"Terrorism is a very serious matter and we will need all the help we can get," he said yesterday.

US authorities, he said, were concerned that 40 JI members led by a Gul Kipli had been going in and out of the Philippines through its porous borders for at least the last five years.

Citing intelligence information, Matillano said Kipli is the highest ranking JI member in the country. He is engaged in the massive recruitment of JI members and their training on terrorist strategies such as bomb-making in remote facilities in Mindanao, he added.

"There are still JI schools in the country," the official said, "and these are indications that the terrorist group is still active despite a series of setbacks."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the JI as the top threat to the country's national security.

"We must not drop our guard or underestimate their tenacity or potential to strike when and where they see weakness or complacency on our side. Terrorism occurs when least expected and there is a need to be alert at all times," President Macapagal said yesterday.

"The JI has been kept at bay by the vigilance of government forces and the communities but this does not mean its capability to attack has been permanently degraded following the arrest or death of its key leaders," Ms Macapagal said.

But security experts said the President has magnified the threat, noting the absence of major terror attacks in the country over the past few months and JI's waning influence among Moro rebels in Mindanao.

Muhajir, the younger brother of Al-Ghozi, was identified by the International Crisis Group, a peace and security think-tank.

Muhajir was an instructor of demolition at a JI camp inside Camp Abubakar in Mindanao called Camp Hudaibuyah.

Sources told the INQUIRER that Muhajir was still in the country and was being hunted by the authorities.

"Muhajir was here around the time Al-Ghozi managed to escape [from Camp Crame]. We are not sure if he aided Al-Ghozi but we are sure he never left," the source said.

'SHOW ME REFORM'
President Macapagal-Arroyo presides over a Cabinet meeting yesterday at the Land Transportation Office on East Ave., Quezon City, during which the beleaguered LTO as well as the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) presented their reform programs. The LTO particularly has been the object of presidential ire for inefficiency and corruption. VAL HANDUMON

3 parties hoping to form united opposition

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE LABAN ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) will soon formally forge an alliance with the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) of ousted president Joseph Estrada and the PDP-Laban of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in a bid to form a united opposition for the 2004 elections.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, LDP president, yesterday said his party, the PMP and PDP-Laban have agreed to coalesce.

"This is the beginning of our formalization of the united opposition," Angara told reporters.

He also expressed the hope that the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco would eventually join the united opposition.

Angara said coalition talks between the LDP and NPC were still "ongoing.' "We're hoping they (NPC) would join us," he said.

Asked what was causing the delay in the coalition of the two parties, Angara said this was due to an "internal process." He did not elaborate.

According to Angara, the LDP is also holding talks with regional parties that have "been turning up all over the country."

Since last month, the LDP has been conducting coalition talks with other parties, including the NPC.

Angara had earlier declared his support for Cojuangco, founder and chair emeritus of the NPC, to be the united opposition's standard-bearer in 2004.

But Cojuangco's allies have said that the businessman is not running for the presidency. There are speculations that Cojuangco will instead support President Macapagal-Arroyo's election bid.

Angara said, however, that Cojuangco is still among those being considered by the opposition to be its standard-bearer in next year's polls. The others include Fernando Poe Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Pimentel and Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Asked to comment on talk that the NPC would align with Ms Macapagal's ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, Angara merely noted that Lakas and the NPC have an alliance at the House of Representatives.

Gambit meant to buy time for reforms—GMA

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Admitting that her December 2002 "queen's gambit" in Baguio had failed, President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Sunday that her decision not to run in the 2004 presidential elections was meant to "sue for time" to pursue economic reforms.

In a speech read for her by National Housing Authority chair Edgardo Pamintuan during the Camp John Hay centennial ball here, Ms Macapagal said she was forced to go back on her word because of interest groups that were "obsessed with power."

Despite her calculations, most of her pre-election programs proved to be ineffective because these interest groups depicted her instead as a "lame duck president," she said.

"I may never find peace again in my lifetime," the President said, citing the opposition's "fire and brimstone posturing" that belied a desperation "to win at all costs, never mind how they will govern later."

Ms Macapagal recalled that it was in this city, "during a brief moment of solace," that she found the peace which she offered to the people by declaring that she was not running in 2004, if only to lend some quiet to the chaotic political atmosphere.

"I was determined to make that sacrifice of stepping aside if only to sue for time in order to concentrate on healing the wounds that have so divided us as a people," she said. "But as you may have witnessed yourself, the politicking and destabilization even intensified to dangerous and even violent proportions."

After that day, the President said, "I was never given an inch." She said it felt like she was being circled by vultures who thought she was dead. "The programs I was trying to pursue were waylaid as coming from a lame duck president. That was why I had to stand up."

Ms Macapagal was scheduled to grace Camp John Hay's centennial anniversary celebrations over the weekend. Towards evening on Sunday, several guests were still hoping she would arrive.

Ateneo profs ask high court to block Davide impeachment

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THREE law professors from the Ateneo de Manila University and a lawyer who had tried to have former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto impeached yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the House of Representatives from transmitting the Articles of Impeachment against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to the Senate.

The 21-page petition filed by the four lawyers also asked the SC to issue a temporary restraining order to prevent the Senate from accepting the Articles of Impeachment, or if it had already done so, to stop it from beginning with the impeachment trial.

The petitioners were Sedfrey Candelaria, associate dean of the Ateneo School of Law, Carlos Medina Jr., executive director of the Ateneo Human Rights Center, and Henedina Razon-Abad, dean of the Ateneo School of Government.

The petitioners from the Ateneo argued that the impeachment complaint against Davide, the second filed against him within months, contravened Section 3 (5), Article XI, of the 1987 Constitution which provides that, "No impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

Ernesto Franscisco Jr., the lawyer who tried but failed to have Desierto impeached in 2001, also filed a petition for certiorari asking the SC to restrain the House from proceeding with the second impeachment complaint against Davide on the grounds that the new rules of impeachment adopted by the House in 2001 were unconstitutional.

Francisco said that under the old rules, impeachment was initiated upon the filing of a verified complaint for impeachment.

But under the new rules, impeachment is deemed initiated only when the House, by a vote of at least a third of its members, affirms the findings of the committee on justice that a complaint is sufficient in substance.

"I believe now is the right time for the 12th Congress to tell the Filipino people why they arbitrarily changed the impeachment rules," Francisco told reporters.

The Ateneo lawyers and Francisco filed the petitions right after the Mass for Davide at the SC compound yesterday morning. The SC en banc started hearing the petitions in the afternoon. Davide inhibited himself from the hearing attended by 13 of the 15 justices.

The petitioners from Ateneo said the first impeachment complaint against Davide was filed on June 2, 2003 by lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada, thus the second impeachment complaint filed by Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Rep. Felix William Fuentebella on Oct. 23 was null and void from the beginning.

"It is a lawless act. It is repugnant to the rule of law," the petitioners said.

Ricardo Abcede, chair of the Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance (Filgood), called for the resignation of Teodoro and Fuentebella.

RP-MILF peace talks postponed

COTABATO CITY—The exploratory talks ahead of formal peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which were supposed to start today in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, have been postponed.

Michael Mastura, a member of the MILF peace panel, said Malaysian authorities informed the secessionist group about the postponement.

The exploratory talks are aimed at threshing out some issues and drafting the agenda for the formal peace negotiations, the schedule of which is still being worked out by Malaysia.

"We were told they [the Malaysians] were still busy after the recently concluded OIC and Apec summits," Mastura said in an interview over Radio dxMS here.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, said the government peace panel was ready for the resumption of the peace talks.

"When Malaysia says so, then off we go to Kuala Lumpur," he said.

But Mastura, a former Maguindanao congressman, said that even if the exploratory talks were resumed, the formal peace negotiations would still have to wait until after the government fulfilled some previous commitments.

Mastura said the government, during the September round of exploratory discussions, had agreed to reposition its troops in the Buliok complex and drop all charges against MILF leaders in connection with the series of bombings in Mindanao.

Mastura said the military has done neither. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

With police revamp looming, can Ebdane keep his post?

By Christian V. Esguerra

CAN THE country's top cop still stand the heat?

In two weeks, the much-criticized Philippine National Police will undergo a top-to-bottom revamp. It remains to be seen if its chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., would keep his job.

Ebdane's "new team" is due in early November with the scheduled reshuffle that would affect 40 percent of all PNP positions nationwide, said Director Jose Lalisan, chief of the Directorate for Personnel Records and Management.

The INQUIRER learned yesterday that pressure was building from some police officer graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), particularly those belonging to Class '71, for Ebdane to yield his post even before his mandatory retirement in December next year.

"They (Ebdane's underclassmen in the force) have not been giving him genuine support because they want to take over," a ranking police official said. "That's the culture among PMA mistahs (classmates) and that's the culture at the PNP."

The PNP chief has had to endure these "silent assaults" because he is the only member of PMA Class 1970 still in the police service, the official said.

Ebdane's mistah, Director Victor Signey, retired early this year as chief of the directorial staff.

The source noted that the PNP chief had been under constant attack since July 2002 when he assumed the position. His promotion was immediately rocked by the highly suspicious escape of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar from Camp Crame.

Earlier that year, some policemen had staged faked kidnapping incidents in Mindanao to make it appear that Ebdane, then chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, was not fit to be the next PNP chief, said the source who was among those who probed the incidents.

Should Ebdane be relieved, the source said, at least three generals, two of them from Class '71, were among the top candidates for his replacement. They are Deputy Director Generals Edgar Aglipay and Virtus Gil and Director Enrique Galang.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, was reportedly shoved out of the race after his alleged backer, former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, withdrew his support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and threw it behind presidential aspirant Raul Roco.

"He fell into disgrace because he was identified with one of President Macapagal's probable opponents next year," the source said.

Velasco is reportedly being groomed to head the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime; considered a freezer for "floating" officials. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Although Aglipay and Gil are naturally the top contenders on account of seniority, the source described Galang, a member of PMA Class '72, as a "dark horse."

"Members of Class '71 to which Aglipay and Gil belong are perceived to be too politicized," the source said, "so... Malacañang may pick someone from the next class.

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Opposition: We were challenged even provoked . . .

From page A1

In a press briefing, Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr., leader of the Nationalist Peoples Coalition in the House, said his group were left with no choice when a House committee investigating the Judiciary Development Fund did not receive the Supreme Court's cooperation.

Davide ordered the courts not to release records to the House, Teodoro said, and even decried the House probe as illegal in a letter to De Venecia.

"We were left with no choice but to file the impeachment complaint," Teodoro said.

But Teodoro, a nephew of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., the NPC founder, said that he and other congressmen were open to a "constitutionally acceptable solution" to the impeachment crisis.

Such a solution could involve the "admission by the court that Congress has the power over the purse."

Davide son

But if Davide insists that Congress cannot look into the JDF, the alternative solution is a "Senate trial," Teodoro said.

Jaraula said the House had gathered documents showing that Davide's son Brian, as vice chair of the high court's bids and awards committee, had the power over every project undertaken by the Supreme Court.

Jaraula claimed that this violated a "certain degree of ethical and moral standards," since Davide was the head of the judiciary while "no less than the son ... has the exclusive power to administer (SC) funds."

Remulla pointed to the sorry state of the country's courts to justify his support of the complaint.

Jaraula also said that Davide had refused to cooperate with the House in its inquiry into the alleged misuse of the JDF. "We gave (the) Chief Justice the opportunity to cooperate with us," he said, adding that the chamber had tried to avoid this "impasse."

He pointed out that Davide and his son Brian, who serves as his chief of staff, allegedly hid some documents to cover up the fund mess.

This, he claimed, prevented the chamber from pursuing its inquiry over the JDF.

Remulla rebuked the judges and lawyers supportive of Davide, saying: "I hope that they had read the merits of the case, and understood it" before they criticized the solons' support for the impeachment complaint. "(They should) act like judges (by not judging us) right away."

Expensive curtains

Another pro-impeachment representative zeroed in on one JDF expense she found controversial.

NPC Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said the curtains purchased for the Supreme Court out of the Judiciary Development Fund would be "more at home in Buckingham Palace than in Padre Faura."

Antonino-Custodio said that Davide authorized the use of P5.57 million for the purchase of curtains as part of the sprucing up of the high court's offices.

"The price is too high for a curtain unless it is made of pure silk," she said. "At a cost of P100 per meter of curtain material, the prevailing price in shopping malls, the P5.57 million could buy 55,700 meters of curtain cloth."

That, she said, was almost 56 km long. One can "hang that curtain along the whole stretch of the South Superhighway."

"This is Davide's Great Wall of Curtain and he diverted money earmarked by law for allowances of court employees for a frivolous expense," Antonino-Custodio said.

At the Manila Hotel forum, Jaraula said he hoped that "Cardinal Sin, President Cory and Raul Roco have read the merits of the case and understand... the reasons why we filed this (impeachment complaint)."

He denied that this was just a "political issue."

"This is really an issue of graft and corruption, and we're trying to find out how the JDF was used. That's the issue here but the Chief Justice does not want to us to (tinker with the funds). That's not right."

Remulla said those opposing the impeachment "can gather as many people as they want but still it does not change the facts of the case."

He added: "We have seen the facts of the case, we have seen the documents, we know that there is missing money and he does not want to cooperate with Congress."

"So we have reached a wall. This is a consequence of the arrogance of power (of Davide)," said Jaraula.

Groundswell of support from all over country

From page A1

Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, chair of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace, said in a separate statement that the "circus orchestrated by politicians and their patrons," was subverting the democratic system.

The Chino Roces Foundation also throw its support behind Davide. "They have irresponsibly embarrassed, humiliated, ridiculed the Supreme Court, destroying the trust and respect the Chief Justice has brought back to this hollowed institution," Chino Roces Foundation chair Eddie Roces said of the congressmen, who signed the impeachment complaint. Davide is a recipient of the Chino Roces Peace Award.

At least 120 judges, prosecutors and employees of four branches of the regional trial court in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga went on mass leave to protest the impeachment of Davide. While five courts in Angeles City went on with regular work, some 50 judges and state prosecutors held an indignation rally during the flag ceremony.

March

Marching around the Angeles City Hall complex, the judges and prosecutors chanted slogans against businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, and the congressmen who voted to impeach Davide. They either wore black shirts, black ribbons or armbands. Lawyer Arlene Buan said the protest would intensify in the coming days.

Also yesterday, 300 members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac wore black armbands in support of Davide. In Bulacan, at least 200 judges and court employees in the province joined the protests at the Batasang Pambansa complex.

Bulacan judges led by Executive Judge Guillermo Agloro endorsed a resolution expressing their "indignation and protest against the treacherous and malicious filing of the second impeachment complaint" against Davide.

In Zambales, lawyers protested what they called an "affront to the independence of the judicial system" in the country. Board Member Samuel Ablola, a lawyer, said the impeachment case was a "vengeful act from politicians whose motives dwell from the dictates of a hidden-faced godfather."

In Ilocos Norte, judges and court employees offered prayers for Davide as they asked the authors of the impeachment complaint to "heed their conscience and not to allow themselves to be instruments in destroying democratic institutions."

Prayer leaflets

Judge Ramon Pacis, executive judge of the Ilocos Norte regional trial court, circulated prayer leaflets to judges and court employees in support of Davide.

"We entreat (the Lord) to open their eyes to the fact that their acts constitute an unprecedented breach of the doctrine of separation of powers," the leaflets said, referring to congressmen who initiated the complaint.

IBP members in crisp *barong tagalog* with black ribbon as arm band, assembled in front of the Regional Trial Court building in Lucena City. The lawyers joined the flag raising of court employees, who were also sporting black ribbons in their sleeves.

Black-shirted leaders of Kaakbay-Quezon supported Davide through a message written in a black streamer. After the program, leaders from the different multisectoral groups smashed bottles of beer and gin, products of San Miguel Corp., to signal their boycott of San Miguel products.

A classmate of Davide at the University of the Philippines vouched for the integrity and honesty of the Chief Justice. "Every time that I visit him with a can of *broas* with me, he avoids discussion of pending cases. That's how circumspect he is when it comes to his job," retired Prosecutor Romeo Dato said.

In Cebu City, 2,000 gathered at the Redemptorist Church in support of Davide. Almost 30 judges from the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court in the cities of Cebu went out of their chambers about noon yesterday to denounce the congressmen who impeached Davide, a Cebuano. Several court employees and lawyers joined the rally at the Marcelo Fernan Hall of Justice. Most of them wore black shirts, armbands and ribbons.

"A cabal of congressmen acting in behalf of a crony have impeached the honorable Chief Justice Hilario Davide. These so-called representatives are not just occasionally rented but wholly owned by the person they have acknowledged as their 'Boss'," statement of the Citizens for Judicial Independence said.

The CJI also described the impeachment complaint as illegal and without basis, noting that the Constitution provides that no impeachment proceeding can be initiated against one person more than once within a year.

Noise barrage

At about 9 a.m. yesterday, around 20 lawyers conducted a noise barrage inside the Palace of Justice. They visited all the courtrooms, demanding the dismissal of the impeachment complaint. Some court hearings were suspended, but resumed later.

The IBP in Cebu, Bohol and Negros Oriental also passed separate resolutions supporting Davide and the Supreme Court.

In Leyte, judges and court employees wore black armbands to show that they were in mourning, while around 30 court employees at the Justice Enrique Zaldivar Hall of Justice in San Jose, Antique prayed in support of Davide.

In Negros Occidental, about 500 Negrenses riding on 100 vehicles joined a caravan and noise barrage around Bacolod City to "Defend Democracy, Defend Davide." A signature campaign also began in Negros Occidental yesterday calling on members of the House and Senate to stop the impeachment process against David.

Judges, lawyers, and court personnel in Mindanao also suspended hearings yesterday in favor of indignation rallies against what they called "political assault" on the judiciary. Most of the protesters wore black T-shirts and armbands.

In Davao City, the protesters numbering to a few hundreds, carried placards and streamers printed with messages such as "Respect separation of powers, We support Davide," "Judiciary is independent nobody can interfere," "Save Davide Save Democracy Save our Country."

Carlos Isagani Zarate, president of IBP-Davao City chapter, said that of the three branches of government, the judiciary was the only one left with a semblance of stability and its integrity relatively intact.

"While power struggles, scandals and general monkeying around has become commonplace in Congress, as well as in Malacañang, the Supreme Court has remained to be a source of judicial guidance that the people generally respect and believe in," Zarate said.

Military take over

Judges in Southern Mindanao raised fears of a military take over if Congress succeeded in impeaching Davide. Judge Emmanuel Carpio of RTC Branch 16 said Congress "don't realize that in case of Constitutional crisis there will be a military take over."

"If there is a military takeover, Congress can be abolished but not the Supreme Court because it is a constitutional body. In case of a martial law, they would ask the Supreme Court to legitimatize their action," Carpio said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, judges, court employees and lawyers attended a Mass inside the St. Augustine Cathedral after a protest against the impeachment raps.

"The chief dispenser of justice shall not be the victim of injustice," said Makati Judges Association president Nemesio Felix as he joined other Makati judges in leaving their chambers and going on a mass leave yesterday noon. Judge Sixto Marella, in a phone interview, said the Makati judges filed for an indefinite leave from work.

At the flag raising at the Manila City Hall yesterday, Executive Judge Enrico Lanzanas called on all court employees to join the rallies in support of Davide. A handful of judges postponed the trials set yesterday, to join the rally at Batasan.

Several judges and court employees of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court also set aide their gavels as they went on mass leave. The judges and court employees joined hundreds of others—mostly clad in black shirts or wearing black armbands—who marched on the Batasan Complex around 1 p.m.

The Chamber of Real estate and Builder' Association urged politicians to refrain from exploiting the impeachment move against Davide as a vehicle for publicity as this artificially create a panic atmosphere, while the Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines condemned as politically motivated the impeachment move.

"We believe that Chief Justice Davide is a man of God, with solid moral values of honesty, fairness, equality, and decency. We trust in his impeccable reputation for clean living and good governance," the foundation said. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes, Jun Malig and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Cristina Arzadon, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Chito A. Fuentes and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Anthony S. Allada, Charlie C. Senase, Franklin A. Caliguid, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Margaux C. Ortiz, Blanche S. Rivera, Tarra Quismundo and Tina Santos in Manila*

6 lawmakers change . . .

From page A1

second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, but gave different, even contrasting reasons.

One said he was put off by talks of a settlement, while another belatedly saw an alleged collusion between President Macapagal-Arroyo and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Their action brought the number of signatories down to 87—still more than the 76 required to send the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

The six who changed their mind were Representatives Rozanno Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa City, Edgar Erice of Caloocan City, JV Bautista of party-list group Sanlakas, Renato Magtubo of party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa, Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City and Ernesto Nieva of Manila.

Biazon, who was the 76th signatory to the complaint, called up the INQUIRER to say that he withdrew his signature from the complaint to prove that he did not receive P5 million as some quarters had alleged.

Reports had circulated that congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint received P5 million each from Cojuangco, the founding chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Biazon explained he was disappointed with the announcement of NPC leader Rep. Gilbert Teodoro that a settlement of the case was in the offing.

Biazon said he believed there was a basis to pursue the impeachment when the complaint was presented to him by Representatives Wimpy Fuentebella and Mark Cojuangco.

"My only way to prove to the people that I did not receive a bribe is by withdrawing my signature. I don't understand this win-win solution. In an impeachment case. It's either somebody must win and somebody must lose. If there is a settlement, that is *aregluhan* (it's been fixed)," he said.

He said he discussed withdrawing his signature with his father, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who he said understood his position and supported it.

Party-list groups

The two party-list congressmen said they withdrew their signatures after they consulted with coconut farmers and their constituents.

In separate statements, both Bautista and Magtubo justified their earlier endorsement of the complaint, saying it was meant to protect and advance the rights and welfare of the employees of the judiciary.

"However, events have unfolded such that the impeachment case against Davide is not anymore merely legal but is now highly political. The merits of the case on the disbursement of JDF funds have been overshadowed by factional infighting among the elite," Magtubo said.

Bautista said that although he continued to believe that Davide must be held to account for the use of the Judiciary Development Fund, he was "constrained" to withdraw his signature.

This, he said, was to "show solidarity with the people who are in protest against the political machinations of tycoon Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco."

"In the end, I believe that that it is the unholy deal struck between President Macapagal and Cojuangco which has virtually poisoned the impeachment proceedings, more than anything else, which we and our people must denounce," Bautista added.

Magtubo said that leaders of small coconut farmers and workers talked to him regarding the impeachment case, saying they could not support the move which would further the interests of Cojuangco.

"The interests of the masses is above all our advocacy and we cannot but side with the people against the elite," Magtubo said.

No money

In Legaspi City, an NPC congressman said there was no truth to the rumor that money had changed hands to push the impeachment bid.

"There is absolutely no money involved in this impeachment move against the Chief Justice," said Bicolano congressman and NPC member Joseph A. Santiago.

He also said the impeachment case should not be equated with Cojuangco or with San Miguel Corp., of which Cojuangco is CEO.

"We're only talking here about the Chief Justice. We're not even against the Supreme Court here," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

Santiago stressed that the impeachment move is only against the man responsible for administering the Judiciary Development Fund.

Being a signatory to the Davide impeachment complaint, the Bicolano lawmaker justified that as a lawyer he would not sign anything he could not prove in court.

"This is not as shallow as others may think. They may call it flimsy or whimsical. But this is a product of a long and deep research."

Santiago added: "This is precisely why we are making the Constitution work. By means of impeachment." *With a report from Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Impeach bid . . .

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Recto said Speaker Jose De Venecia and his colleagues—who wish to amend the Constitution and abolish the two-chamber legislature through a constituent assembly—should kiss Cha-cha goodbye because "many rightly feared a party dictatorship in a unicameral body."

He said the congressmen failed to see that the decision to impeach Davide "has made many people wary of (reposing) legislative powers unto a single body."

Recto issued the statement after noting that the majority of those who signed the impeachment complaint belonged to the Nationalist People's Coalition, the second biggest political party in Congress which has an alliance with the ruling Lakas-CMD party.

Recto said that impeaching Davide without going through the usual committee route exposed the weaknesses of a unicameral parliament.

"This episode bares a drawback of a single-chamber legislature: the absence of an internal check-and-balance mechanism within the legislature," said Recto. "Two-chamber lawmaking may be tedious but that could be blamed (on) the physical separation of the two Houses. On the other hand, the quality of legislation benefits from the review a chamber conducts on the outputs of the other. This counterpoint enables one chamber to correct, temper the mistakes of the other."

Recto said he found it ironic that "the very proponent of Charter change has created a situation that now deprives the Senate (of the chance) to tackle the issue" of constitutional change.

He said that once the Articles of Impeachment are transmitted to the Senate, the Senate would have to tackle the issue of the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint "before it could go into the trial proper."

The upcoming budget deliberations "will also severely restrict the time the Senate will have (left) to tackle the issue of the House Cha-cha (initiative) and (the) Davide complaint at the same time."

He noted that the Senate had only until February to finish all its legislative duties, before adjourning for the elections.

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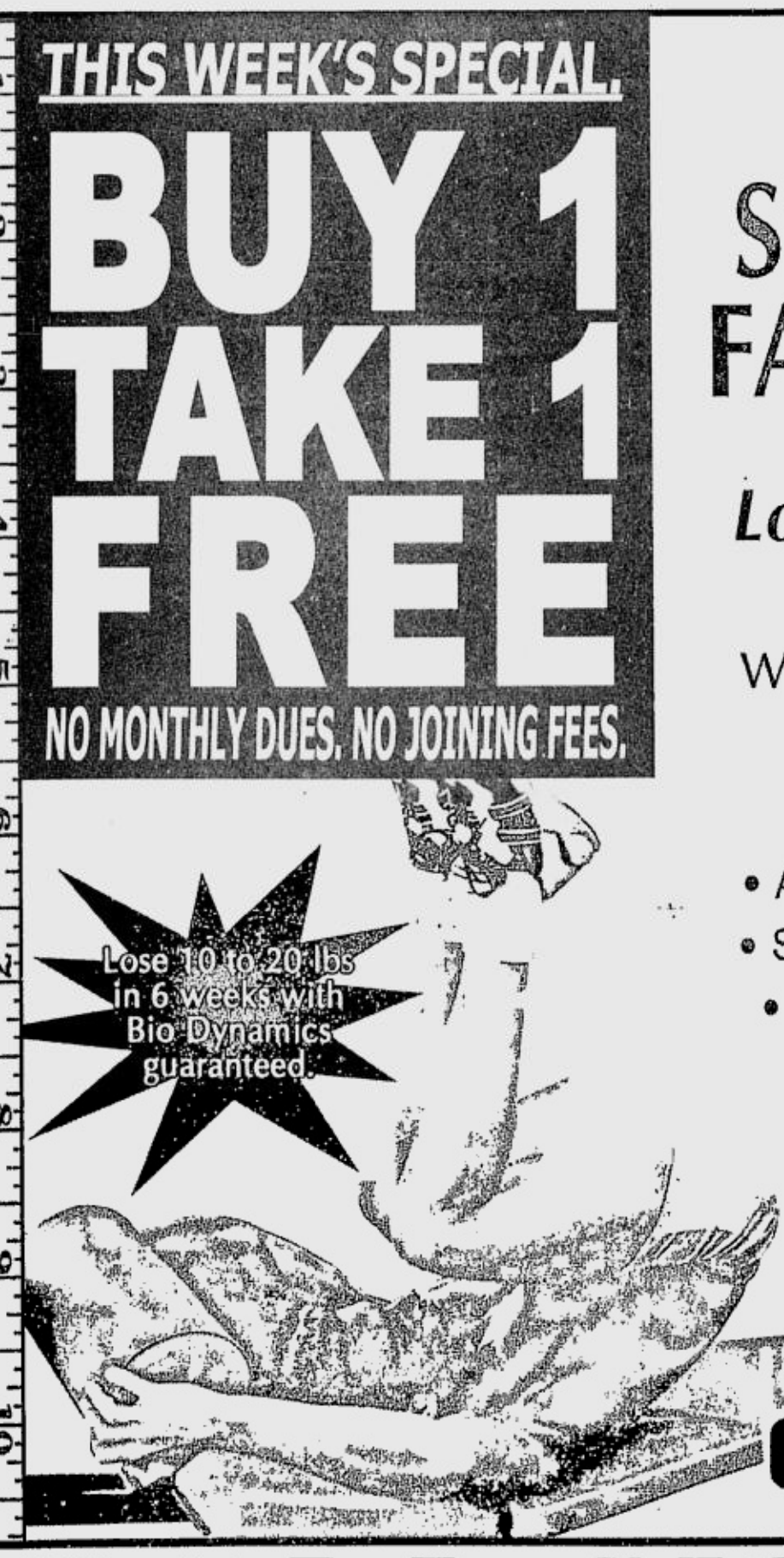

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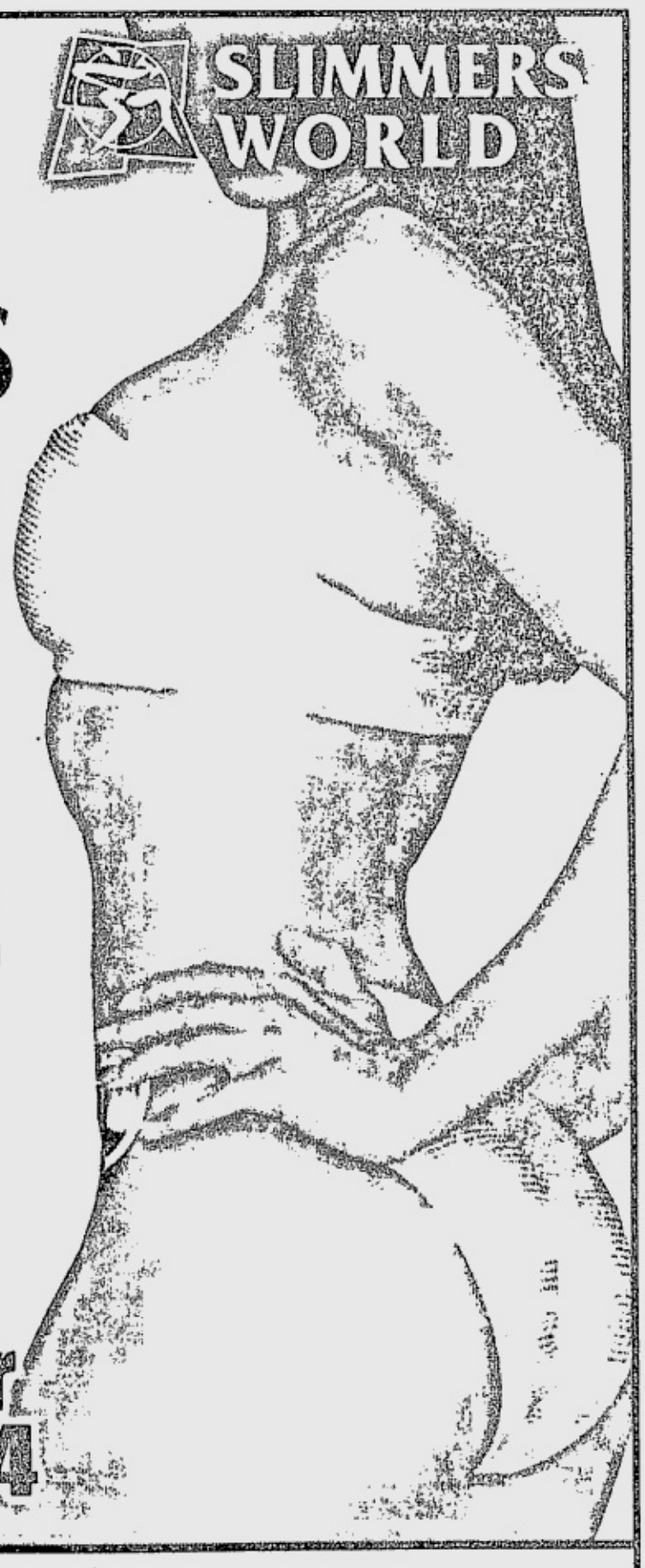

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Peso closes at record low of 55.50 to dollar

From page A1

down to its all-time closing low of 55.50 to the greenback. The previous closing low for the peso was 55.45 to the dollar on Aug. 26.

At the height of Estrada's impeachment trial, the peso hit a record intra-day low of 55.75 to the dollar on Jan. 17, 2001 but closed at 54.625.

At the Philippine Dealing System on Monday, the peso hit a fresh two-month low of 55.55 to the dollar before profit taking allowed the local currency to close five centavos higher.

As an indication of the volatility in the currency market, volume rose to $204 million from $145.2 million on Friday when the peso closed at 55.33 to the dollar.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso's current weakness was largely due to political uncertainties, which may have delayed remittances of dollars from overseas Filipino workers.

"I definitely believe it is an overreaction and it should go back to more normal levels once this thing comes to pass," Buenaventura told reporters.

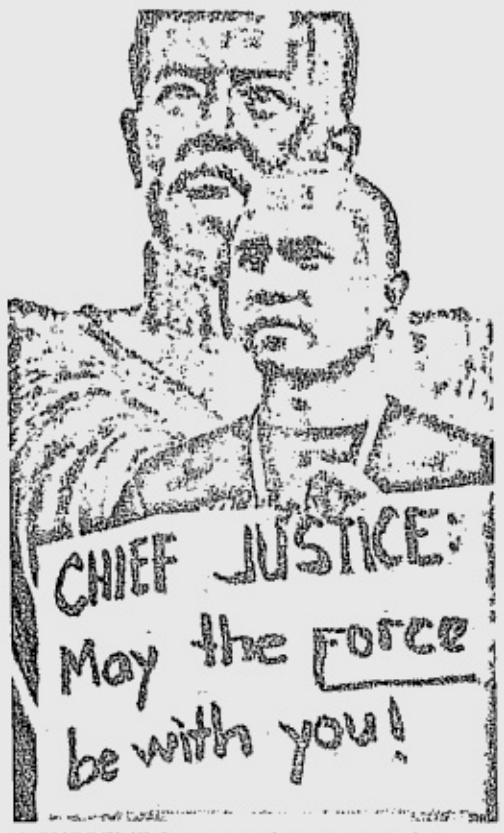
He was referring to an impeachment row involving Davide and members of the House of Representatives allied with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp. and acknowledged boss of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Buenaventura declined to comment on reports that the central bank intervened on Monday to cushion the peso's fall. "We're watching the market," he told reporters.

A move by a big group of lawmakers to impeach Davide on allegations he misused public funds has unnerved investors, raising the prospects of a damaging battle between Congress and the judiciary.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had been staying above the fray, said on Monday she was seeking a "principled" solution to avert a political crisis. Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino, key players in "People Power" uprisings in 1986 and 2001, have called on the public to oppose the impeachment.

These developments, however, only added a fresh dimension to the political tension ahead of the presidential election next May, according to traders.



A SUPREME Court employee wants the "force" to be with the Chief Justice. Behind is the statue of Cayetano S. Arellano, the first Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court. ERIK ARAZAS

Political noise

"The political noise did not help because it may have delayed inward remittances and accelerated outflows," Buenaventura said.

Millions of overseas Filipino workers send home more than $7 billion in remittances in a typical year, driving the economy by fueling consumer demand by their families and providing the government with a ready source of dollars.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho urged investors to wait for the positive resolution to Davide's impeachment before "making harsher judgements and even harsher decisions."

"These are political events affecting the economic environment. I hope that in the next 24 hours we would have some positive news to reverse the perception of instability," Camacho said.

He squelched newspaper reports that Ms Macapagal had conspired with Cojuangco to impeach Davide in her bid to win the NPC's support in the May elections. Cojuangco's NPC is also part of Ms Macapagal's ruling coalition in the House of Representatives.

There were also reports that a power struggle involving the Supreme Court in connection with P100-billion coco levy fund contested by the government and Cojuangco, a former Marcos crony, was behind Davide's impeachment.

"Absolutely not. The President had assured all of us that she was not capable of that," Camacho told reporters.

Buenaventura said the a big demand for dollars further weakened the peso. "Basically it really has to do with corporate demand," he said.

Deutsche Telekom's sale of its stake in Globe Telecom to co-owners Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications necessitated the purchase of $250 million to $300 million from the foreign exchange market, Buenaventura said.

The central bank governor said he expected the peso to stabilize soon, given the likely recovery in exports before the Christmas season.

"The market is relatively stable. There was a tendency to improve but it was short-circuited by events," he said. "It will normalize. Exports are likely to recover in the last quarter."

Stocks

Local stocks also fell for a fourth straight session on Monday, hurt by the peso's weakness and the controversial impeachment of Davide.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index slid 5.23 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1358.17 after declining 1.04 points Friday. The broader All Shares Index slipped 2.19 points to 821.00 after losing 5.78 points Friday at 823.19.

Decliners swamped gainers 39 to 17, with 39 issues unchanged. Turnover slid to P343.8 million from Friday's P502.02 million.. Volumes were higher than normal last week, driven by large block trades related to Deutsche Telekom's sale of its stake in Globe Telecom.

"Investors' sentiment is again tilting to negative," Mark Canizares, an analyst at Citisec-Online.com, told Dow Jones Newswires.

Traders said the impeachment controversy was likely to keep the market under pressure in the coming days with further profit taking seen in selected large caps that have posted recent gains.

"There's new uncertainty over the impeachment of Davide. It will continue going forward until Senate puts the matter on its official business and decides once and for all what to do about the case," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development.

"For the rest of the week we are likely to test the 1,350 points mark. The bias will be flat to lower," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Securities.

Steve Brice, regional analyst with Standard Chartered in Singapore, said the impeachment case was likely a sign of things to come over the next seven months.

"It's just another indicator that things are going to be pretty volatile as we head into an election," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye warned on Sunday that funds earmarked to run the government and its agencies next year could be delayed if politicians did not quickly resolve the row.

"If the budget for next year is not passed in time, the government will have to make do with the current budget," Bunye said in a statement. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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Tutors decry new grading system in public schools

THE NEW grading system being implemented by the Department of Education is said to be wreaking havoc on the work of teachers and principals in public elementary and high schools nationwide.

Participants in the last Educators Congress in Baguio City held on Oct. 7 to 9, said the new rating system—started during the second grading period of this school year—was making their already difficult jobs more difficult.

The principals and educators said they were not consulted about the system and that DepEd officials discussed the matter only with regional directors.

But DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said the teachers and school administrators did not express any apprehension about the system during the congress.

In fact, Hidalgo said, the new system got "positive feedback."

"Contrary to reports," she told reporters, "the teachers like it (because) "it would make computing grades easier."

The new rating system requires students to pass each of the four quarters of the school year instead of only the final grading period. The system also does away with the transmutation table, which gives an equivalent grade for the total number of points earned by a student. Education officials said the table did not accurately reflect a student's performance.

Cora Echano, head of the Curriculum Development Division of the Bureau of Secondary Education, said there was no reason for the teachers to be confused or surprised. She said they were advised not to use the transmutation table for the second grading period even before the congress, when it became apparent that the new system was going to be finalized.

The department order said grades should be based on the students' performance as measured against the Philippine Elementary Learning Competencies and Philippine Secondary Schools Learning Competencies. Students should attain at least 75 percent of the competencies before they could pass a subject.

These competency guidelines prescribe that 60 percent of tests should be "easy items" focused on basic skills, 30 percent "medium level" items, and the last 10 percent items that should determine "desirable content or skills that aim to distinguish the fast learners (from the rest)."

The order also said the lowest grade that should appear in the students' report card is 65 percent, but the "true" grade should be retained in the class record. *Alcuin Papa*

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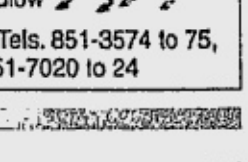

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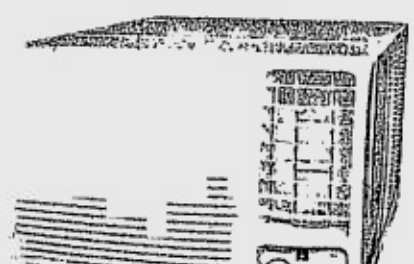

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 28, 2003
Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: Lk 6:12-16

At this time Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Commentary

"Now you are no longer strangers ... but fellow citizens of the holy people: you are of the household of God ... the whole structure is joined together and rises to be a holy temple in the Lord." As I write this reflection, the big news was about the more than 400 refugees mainly from Afghanistan stranded inside the Norwegian cargo ship after they were plucked out from sea with no country willing to take them in. Indonesia refused to take them in and so with Australia closing its shores. Illegal immigrants, people who left their country for one reason or another, and without legal documents to enter another country are in perilous conditions. Nationality and citizenship are very important. They are the key to many privileges and many rights denied to non-citizens. St. Paul writing to the early Christians, used the idea of citizenship to explain the new status of new converts. They are fellow citizens and members of the household of God. As such they should be accorded all the rights and privileges of the children of God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (INTERNATIONAL LAW)—State immunity from suit—The precept that a State cannot be sued in the courts of a foreign state is a long-standing rule of customary international law then closely identified with the personal immunity of a foreign sovereign from suit and, with the emergence of democratic states, made to attach not just to the person of the head of state, or his representative, but also distinctly to the state itself in its sovereign capacity. If the acts giving rise to a suit are those of a foreign government done by its foreign agent, although not necessarily a diplomatic personage, but acting in his official capacity, the complaint could be barred by the immunity of the foreign sovereign from suit without its consent. Suing a representative of a state is believed to be, in effect, suing the state itself. The proscription is not accorded for the benefit of an individual but for the State, in whose service he is, under the maxim—par in parem, non habet imperium—that all states are sovereign equals and cannot assert jurisdiction over one another. The implication, in broad terms, is that if the judgment against an official would require the state itself to perform an affirmative act to satisfy the award, such as the appropriation of the amount needed to pay the damages decreed against him, the suit must be regarded as being against the state itself, although it has not been formally impleaded. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, First Division, Minucher vs Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 142396, February 11, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

34 killed, 224 hurt in Baghdad attacks

BAGHDAD—Suicide bombers struck four times in Baghdad's Monday morning rush hour, killing 34 people and wounding 224 near the Red Cross offices and police stations, in the city's bloodiest day since Saddam Hussein's overthrow.

Apparently coordinated blasts shook the city after three US soldiers were killed in separate attacks overnight. An ambulance bomb was used in the Red Cross attack.

Iraq's police chief Ahmad Ibrahim, who is also deputy interior minister, told a news conference 26 of the 34 dead were civilians and eight police. Sixty-five police and 159 civilians were wounded. He did not say if foreigners were killed.

The explosions, sirens and smoke plunged Baghdad into fear and chaos at the outset of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

The onslaught "is not only criminal, it's sacrilegious," US Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling told reporters.

Speaking later at the news conference, Hertling said all the Monday morning attacks were suicide bombings, while a fifth had been foiled by Iraqi police. A suspect seized alive in that attack was believed to be a Syrian national, he said.

The bombings brought a new urgency to the struggle by embattled US-led forces to control Iraq. On Sunday, rockets hit a fortified Baghdad hotel where US Deputy Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz was staying, killing a US soldier and wounding 17 people. Wolfowitz was unhurt.

Monday's suicide attack at about 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters in central Baghdad killed 10 to 12 people, including two Iraqi ICRC guards and eight laborers passing in a lorry, the ICRC said. Fifteen Iraqi ICRC staff members were wounded.

"I saw an ambulance coming very fast towards the barrier and it exploded," said an ICRC guard. Hertling said initial indications were the vehicle had Red Cross or Red Crescent markings.

The blast blew down an outer wall and shattered windows in the ICRC building.

The ICRC cut its foreign staff from more than 100 to about 30 after a Sri Lankan technician was shot dead in July and after a suicide bomber devastated the UN headquarters in August, killing 22 people including UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

In northeast Baghdad, at least eight people died in a blast near a police station, a US military policeman said. "There are eight dead, several walking wounded," Sgt. Mike Toole told Reuters at the scene in the Shaab district.

Witnesses said the attack appeared to have been a suicide bombing. "It was a Land Cruiser that was speeding towards the police station. The (guards) fired on it four times. It turned right and blew up," said local resident Mohammed Ali.

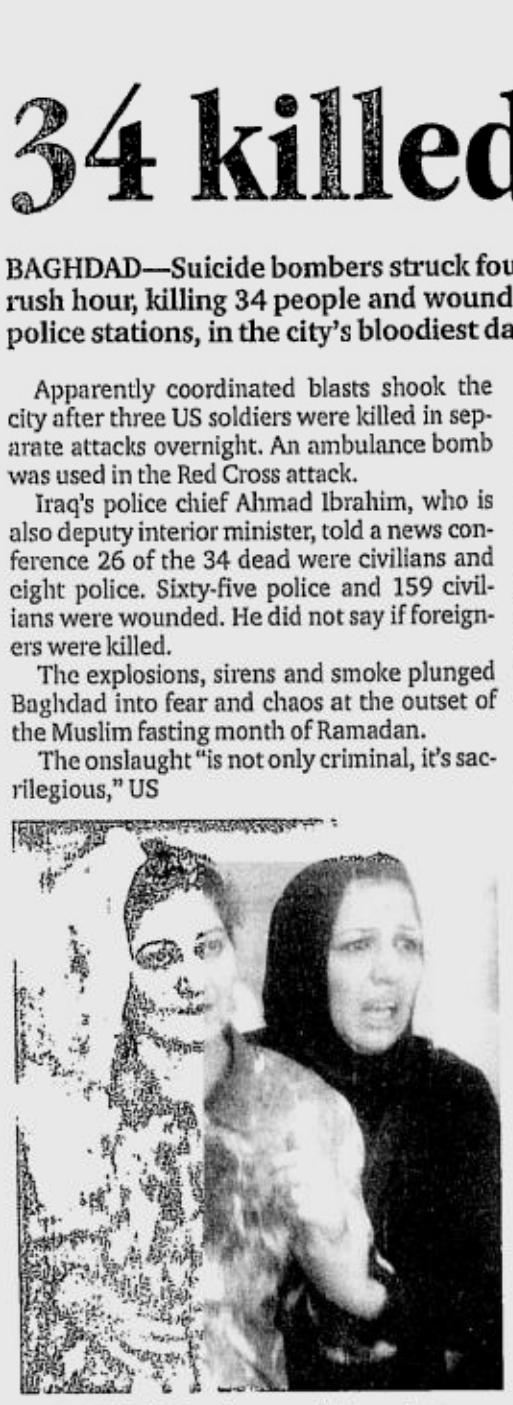
Officials at one hospital said at least 15 people had been killed in attacks on police stations in the southwestern Baya and western Khadra districts. Pools of blood lay on the hospital floor.

"I was sitting in my office and suddenly there was a loud explosion and glass flew across the room at me," said wounded police investigator Ali Tahseen of the Baya blast.

A police official said bombs had gone off near three police stations. Police had foiled another attack by killing a suspected bomber and wounding another. The official said unexploded ordnance had also been found at a fire station and a market area.

Hertling said ICRC guards had stopped the ambulance bomb from entering the ICRC compound, so the bomber detonated it about 20 meters from the sandbagged entrance.

The blast dug a crater about one meter deep and three to four meters across. *Reuters*



A WOUNDED Iraqi woman is brought to a hospital. REUTERS

US SOLDIERS gather in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters after the bombing. AFP

Emergency declared in California as fires kill 13

LOS ANGELES—Voracious wildfires killed at least 13 people in California, forced tens of thousands of from their homes and sparked chaos in air travel across North America, officials said Sunday.

Gov. Gray Davis declared a state of emergency in four counties in the south of the most populous US state as a giant new blaze began invading the city of San Diego, forcing thousands more residents to flee.

The latest out-of-control inferno is one of 10 in the state fueled by treacherously high winds and tinder-dry forests that have destroyed at least 800 homes and devoured 110,800 hectares of land.

"I know this is a difficult time," Davis told the tens of thousands of people forced out of their homes by the blazes by flames or the threat of flames. "These are the worst fires we've faced in California in 10 years.

"We are ensuring that every available resource—state, federal, and local—is dedicated to protecting lives and property," he said, declaring emergencies in Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura and San Bernardino counties. *AFP*

US, N. Korea discussing new 6-way talks

TOKYO—The United States and North Korea have begun discussions aimed at holding a second round of six-way talks over the North's nuclear arms program in Beijing in early December, a Japanese newspaper reported on Monday.

The Asahi Shimbun, quoting "a source close to US-North Korea relations," said officials from the two countries met in New York last Friday and agreed to meet again.

"There was agreement to hurry preparations for a second round of six-way talks in Beijing in early December," the newspaper quoted the source as saying in a report from Washington.

North Korea, in a significant shift in its stance on the year-old nuclear crisis, said on Saturday that it was prepared to consider a US offer of security guarantees in return for stopping its atomic weapons program.

But Pyongyang also said it was too early to assume that more multilateral talks would be held until it had assessed Washington's intentions through diplomatic channels.

US President George W. Bush offered Pyongyang unspecified security assurances for the first time last week but ruled out meeting its demand for a non-aggression treaty.

The Asahi Shimbun said that in Friday's meeting, US officials explained the security assurances to North Korea by repeating Bush's remarks. *Reuters*

A TIME OF WORSHIP, SOUL-SEARCHING
Afghan Abdul Hakim, 65, runs his *tasbeh* (prayer beads) through his fingers as he waits for work outside a Mosque in Kabul, Oct. 27, on the first day of the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan. For Muslims the world over, Ramadan, held on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time of worship and contemplation during which a fast is observed from dawn until dusk. AFP

US warns Russia tycoon's arrest may scare away foreign investors

MOSCOW—The United States rebuked Russia on Sunday over the arrest of oil tycoon and Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky and warned that its action sent a negative signal to foreign investors.

Observers agree that Yukos oil chief Khodorkovsky, who spent his first night in jail Saturday, was no saint as he wheeled and dealt his way through the murky post-Soviet economic transition in the 1990s to become Russia's richest man with an estimated worth of $8 billion.

But powerful business leaders argued that measures taken against him by Russian prosecutors were tantamount to a witch hunt against a man who dared to challenge President Vladimir Putin on the eve of parliamentary elections.

They said the arrest would likely scare away foreign investors in Russia and hurt small- and medium-sized business that are enjoying the first sustained period of post-Soviet growth.

In the first indication of alarm in Washington, a senior US diplomat said that the United States was concerned about the escalating campaign by prosecutors against Yukos, Russia's biggest oil company.

"We are concerned about this escalation of the legal pressure being exerted on Yukos. We won't comment on the legal basis for Mr. Khodorkovsky's detention but it would appear that the law is applied selectively at the very least," the diplomat said.

"This move will send a very negative signal to companies investing or considering investing in Russia," the US official said on condition of anonymity.

Khodorkovsky, who has been in talks with US oil majors ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco on the sale of a major shareholding in his company, has built up good contacts in Washington and is one of main advocates of boosting Russian oil exports to the United States. *AFP*

Egypt rejoices at return of apparent Ramses mummy

CAIRO—Egypt celebrated Sunday the return of a 3,000-year-old mummy believed to be that of Ramses I, after more than 140 years in exile spent in Canada and the United States.

The mummy was temporarily put on display at the Egyptian National Museum in Cairo after arriving here Saturday from the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Atlanta's Emory University in Georgia, which acquired the mummy three years ago.

A band played triumphant military tunes as the secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Zahi Hawass, opened a case containing the mummy in a ceremony at the museum.

Hundreds of people, including tourists, clapped as schoolchildren in pharaonic costumes sang a tune to the glory of Egyptian history.

"We are one hundred percent sure that the mummy before us is a royal mummy, because of the way it was embalmed" and has his arms folded across the chest, Hawass said.

"We are not sure that it is Ramses I," he said. "But what makes us think it is, is that his face looks like Sethi I, his son."

Hawass escorted the mummy back from Atlanta to Egypt after the Carlos Museum offered to transfer ownership back to Cairo.

Three years ago, the mummy was in a small museum in Niagara Falls, New York. It became available when the museum closed.

The director of the Carlos Museum, Bonnie Speed, said her institution bought the mummy for $2 million and gave it back to Egypt for free.

She said an examination by her museum indicated that the mummy was "95 percent" Ramses I.

Hawass rejected the possibility of carrying out DNA tests on the mummy because "its results are only 42 percent exact."

But Gaballah Ali Gaballah, Hawas' predecessor at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said "with modern methods, especially using DNA, it (his identity) can be investigated very very easily."

Gaballah, who started negotiations for the return of Ramses I, hailed the return of the mummy as reinforcing the principle that Egypt's ancient treasures be returned.

Hawass, and Gaballah before him, has been on an international mission to recover artifacts that were taken out of Egypt over the past 200 years.

Questions have been raised as to whether Hawass wants to recover the renowned basalt Rosetta stone kep in the British Museum, and 3,300-year-old bust of legendary beauty Queen Nefertiti, housed in a Berlin museum.

Hawass last month denied he wanted to recover them for good, although he wanted them on loan for a few months.

Ramses I, founder of the 19th dynasty of Egyptian pharaohs, is little known compared to his grandson, Ramses II, remembered for his military campaigns and his extensive building program, the remains of which are still conspicuous. *AFP*

AN EGYPTIAN worker wipes the glass case of the 3,000-year-old mummy that is believed to be Ramses I, who ruled Egypt from 1292-1290 B.C., at the Egyptian museum in Cairo. AP

12 underground Catholic priests detained in China

BEIJING—Chinese authorities have detained a dozen underground Roman Catholic priests and seminarians for attending a retreat that was not sponsored by the state, a US-based religious right s group said.

They were being held at a detention center in Gaocheng county in the northern province of Hebei a week after authorities raided their retreat and took them into custody, the Connecticut-based Cardinal Kung Foundation said.

Roman Catholicism is illegal in China which has cracked down on underground churches loyal to the Pope.

Authorities demolished a church in nearby Liugou village in June, about two weeks after its completion, the group said. About 150 parishioners belonged to the church.

"It does not appear that the Chinese government respects the Pope with these consistent and harsh treatments of the Roman Catholic Church in China," foundation president Joseph Kung said in a statement. *Reuters*

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MANILA - DAVAO	5J - 971	Daily	DC9	1730	1910	P 3,667	P 2,399	P 2,519
DAVAO - MANILA	5J - 972	Daily	DC9	1950	2130	P 3,667	P 2,199	P 2,519
MANILA - BACOLOD	5J - 477	Daily	DC9	1340	1440	P 2,799	P 1,899	P 2,049
BACOLOD - MANILA	5J - 478	Daily	DC9	1530	1630	P 2,799	P 1,899	P 2,049
MANILA - CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J - 385	Daily	DC9	1100	1225	P 3,645	P 2,399	P 2,519
CAGAYAN DE ORO - MANILA	5J - 386	Daily	DC9	1315	1440	P 3,645	P 2,399	P 2,519

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	NORMAL	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA - ILOILO	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0620	0720	P 2,779	P 1,599	P 2,049
ILOILO - MANILA	5J - 454	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P 2,779		P 2,049
MANILA - KALIBO	5J - 343	Daily	DC9	1325	1415	P 2,899	P 1,849	P 2,049
KALIBO - MANILA	5J - 344	Daily	DC9	1455	1545	P 2,899		P 2,049
MANILA - TACLOBAN	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520	P 2,899	P 1,699	P 2,049
TACLOBAN - MANILA	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710	P 2,899	P 1,699	P 2,049
MANILA - BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily*	DC9	0900	1025	P 3,645		P 2,549
BUTUAN - MANILA	5J - 788	Daily*	DC9	1115	1240	P 3,645		P 2,549

*Effective 03 Nov 03

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Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J – 557*	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 559	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J – 561	Daily	B757	0700	0810	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,899	P 2,049	P 1,699
	5J – 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J – 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	P 1,899
	5J – 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J – 577	W/Th/Sa/ Su	B757	1325	1435	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J – 569	Daily	B757	1500	1610	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J – 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,899	P 2,049	
	5J - 573	Daily	B757	1900	2010	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,899	P 2,049	
*5J 557 – cancelled every T/W/Sat until 31 Oct 03										
DAVAO	5J – 961	Daily	B757	0430	0610	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	P2,399
	5J – 963	Daily	B757	1020	1200	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J – 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J – 967	Daily	DC9	1540	1720	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 971	Daily	DC9	1730	1910	P 3,667	P 3,239	P 2,399	P 2,519	
CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J – 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J – 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 385*	Daily	DC9	1100	1225	P 3,645	P 3,239	P 2,399	P 2,519	
*5J 385 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										
TACLOBAN	5J – 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J – 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J – 657*	Daily	DC9	1410	1520	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
*5J 657 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										
ILOILO	5J – 451	Daily	DC9	0520	0620	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,599	P 2,049	
	5J - 453	Daily	DC9	0620	0720	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,599	P 2,049	
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1520	1620	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
*5J 453 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 02 Nov 03										
BACOLOD	5J – 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,899	P 2,049	P 1,699
	5J – 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
	5J - 477	Daily	DC9	1340	1440	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,899	P 2,049	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
*5J 477 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										
ZAMBOANGA	5J – 851	Daily	DC9	0520	0650	P 3,667	P 3,239	P 2,399	P 2,499	
ROXAS	5J – 373	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P 2,539	P 2,149	P 1,899	P 1,999	
DUMAGUETE	5J – 625	Daily	DC9	0530	0640	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,769	P 2,049	
	5J – 627	Daily	DC9	1240	1350	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,769	P 2,049	
KALIBO	5J – 339	Daily	DC9	0920	1010	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,849	P 2,049	
	5J - 343*	Daily	DC9	1325	1415	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,849	P 2,049	
*5J 343 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										
BUTUAN	5J – 787	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	0900	1025	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,549	
	5J - +/223	M/W/Sa	DC9	-	1155	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,549	
*5J 787 – DAILY effective 30 Oct 03 + via Cebu 5J 557/ 559/ 561/ 563										
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J – 637	Daily	DC9	0710	0820	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
	5J - +/277	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	-	1225	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
+ via Cebu 5J 557/ 559/ 561/ 563										
SUBIC	5J – 100*	Su	DC9	1430	1500			P 500		
* 5J 100 – effective until 04 Jan 2004										

ORIGIN: CEBU

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J – 556	M/Th/F/Su	B757	0300	0410	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,249	P 2,049	
	5J – 558*	Daily	DC9	0400	0510	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J - 562	Daily	B757	0900	1010	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
	5J - 570	Daily	B757	1700	1810	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 574	Daily	B757	2100	2210	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,249	P 2,049	
* 5J – 558 - cancelled every Tu/W/Sa until 31 Oct 03										
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0815	0905	P 2,589	P 2,249		P 1,949	
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1455	1545	P 2,589	P 2,249		P 1,949	
BUTUAN	5J - 223	M/W/Sa	DC9	1115	1155	P 1,839	P 1,499		P 1,299	
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J - 227	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	1115	1225	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/F/Sa	DC9	0905	1000	P 2,649	P 2,319		P 1,999	
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P 1,879	P 1,539		P 1,349	
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1710	1745	P 2,099	P 1,759		P 1,549	

ORIGIN: ILOILO

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 454*	Daily	DC9	0800	0900	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
	5J – 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
	5J – 460	Daily	DC9	1700	1800	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,749	P 2,049	
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1830	1930	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,449	P 2,049	
* 5J 454 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 02 Nov 03										
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0700	0735	P 2,099	P 1,759		P 1,549	
DAVAO * via Cebu	5J – 161/593*	Daily	DC9	0700	0905	P 3,645	P 3,195			

ORIGIN: ROXAS

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P 2,539	P 2,149	P 1,899	P 1,999	

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
	5J - 658*	Daily	DC9	1600	1710	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,699	P 2,049	
* 5J - 658 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1050	1220	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,499	
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/F/Sa	DC9	0730	0825	P 2,649	P 2,319		P 1,999	
DAVAO	5J - 394	Tu/Th/Su	DC9	0730	0830	P 2,649	P 2,319		P 1,999	

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788*	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	1115	1240	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,549	
	5J – 224/+	M/W/Sa	DC9	1235	-	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,549	
CEBU	5J – 224	M/W/Sa	DC9	1235	1315	P 1,839	P 1,499		P 1,299	
* 5J – 788 – DAILY effective 30 Oct 03 + Via Cebu 5J 568/ 570/ 572										

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J – 474	Daily	DC9	0920	1020	P 2,779	P 2,449		P 2,049	
	5J – 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,899	P 2,049	
	5J - 478*	Daily	DC9	1550	1630	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,899	P 2,049	
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940	P 2,779	P 2,449	P 1,899	P 2,049	P 1,699
*5J – 478 - effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P 1,879	P 1,539		P 1,349	

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 626	Daily	DC9	0720	0830	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,769	P 2,049	
	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1430	1540	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,769	P 2,049	

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J – 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300	P 3,645	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 386*	Daily	DC9	1315	1440	P 3,645	P 3,239	P 2,399	P 2,519	
* 5J - 386 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										

ORIGIN: KALIBO

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1050	1140	P 2,899	P 2,569	P 1,849	P 2,049	
	5J - 344*	Daily	DC9	1455	1545	P 2,899	P 2,569		P 2,049	
* 5J - 344 – effective 30 Oct 03; cancelled on 01 Nov 03										

ORIGIN: PUERTO PRINCESA

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 638	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
	5J - 228/*	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	1305	-	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
CEBU	5J - 228	Tu/Th/F/Su	DC9	1305	1415	P 2,899	P 2,499		P 2,049	
* Via Cebu 5J-568 / 570 /572										

ORIGIN: DAVAO

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	B757	0740	0920	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 964	Daily	B757	1300	1440	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1625	1805	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 968	Daily	B757	1800	1940	P 3,667	P 3,239		P 2,519	
	5J - 972	Daily	DC9	1950	2130	P 3,667	P 3,239	P 2,199	P 2,519	
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0945	1035	P 2,589	P 2,249		P 1,949	
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1540	1630	P 2,589	P 2,249		P 1,949	
ILOILO * via Cebu	5J – 598/164*	Daily	DC9	1540	1745	P 3,645	P 3,195			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	Tu/Th/Su	DC9	0910	1010	P 2,649	P 2,319		P 1,999	

ORIGIN: SUBIC

Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	PROMO	2-DAY ADVANCE	5-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J – 101*	F	DC9	1930	2000			P 500		
* 5J - 101 – effective until 04 Jan 2004										

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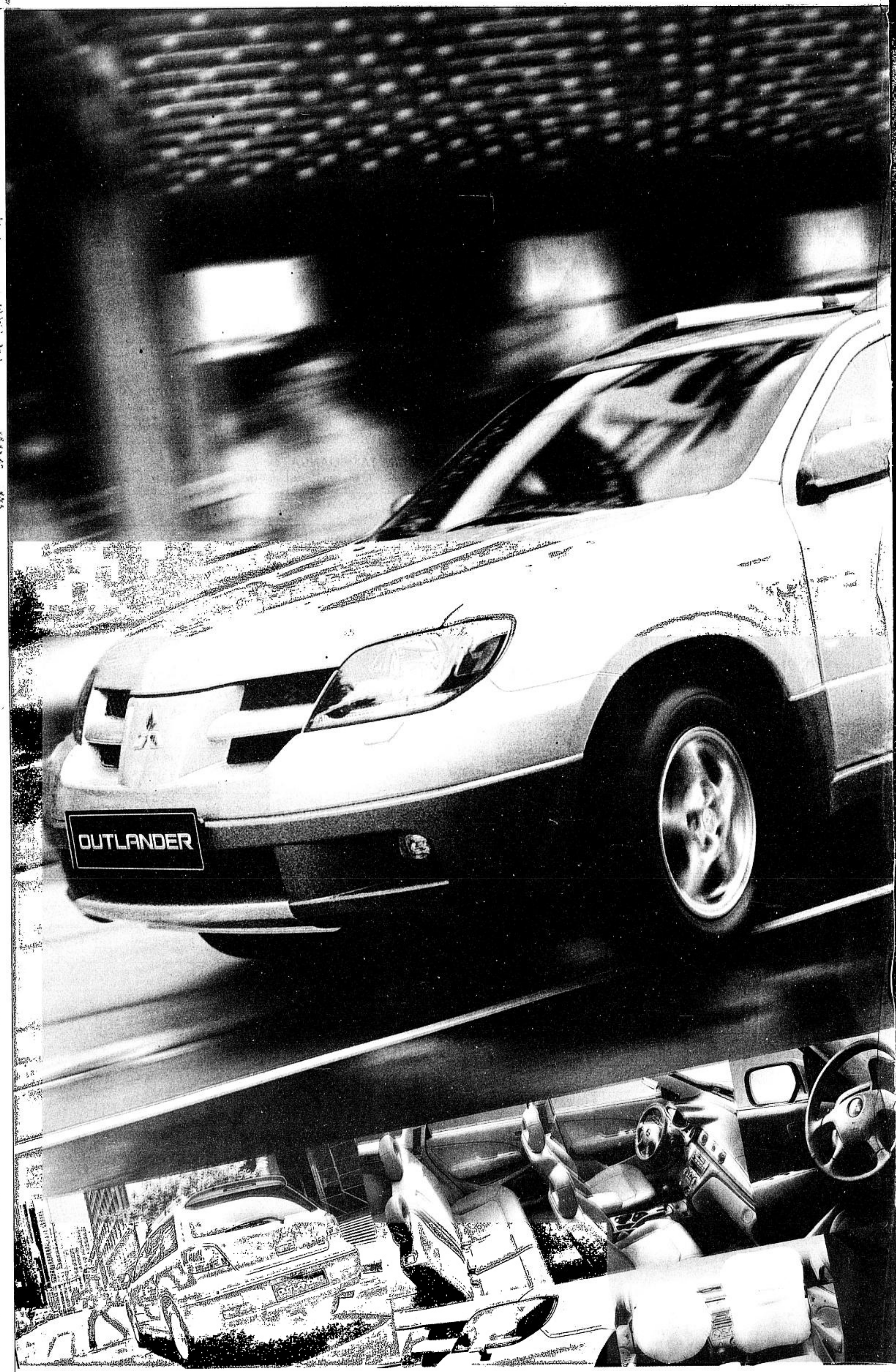

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OPINION

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Meet FPJ

BECAUSE Fernando Poe Jr. is being considered as a serious contender for the presidency, Filipinos should know some relevant and interesting but not so well-known facts about him.

Poe is the son of actor-producer Fernando Poe Sr. and Elizabeth Kelley. His real name is Ronald Allan Kelley Poe. The family name was originally spelled "Pou," from paternal grandfather Lorenzo Pou, a playwright who migrated from Mallorca, Spain, to pursue mining and other business interests in the Philippines.

EDITORIAL

FPJ quit high school in his sophomore year to work as a messenger in a film exchange office. He may have been forced to drop out of school because his father died of rabies and he became the breadwinner of his family. But while he is a school dropout, he has not stopped reading. His favorite books are Henry Miller's works, including "Tropic of Cancer," "Tropic of Capricorn" and "The Air-conditioned Nightmare."

He had his first acting role in "Anak ni Palaris" in 1950. But his biggest break was "Lo' Waist Gang" in 1956 which marked Philippine movies' shift from the fantasy world of costume productions to the gritty realism of action movies. The movie was such a big hit that it started a fashion fad: low-waist pants (which, by the way, has come back, exposing navels, the small of the back and even panties and briefs).

His body of work as an actor, producer and director includes some 200 movies. He has won many awards, including Famas Best Actor (five times) and the Urian Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award. In most of his movies he plays a hero who is peace-loving, until he is pushed to the wall by the villains and rises in defense of the poor and the oppressed.

Nestor U. Torre, one of the country's preeminent movie columnists, said that Poe's more significant achievements have been in the fields of directing and producing, done under the "nom de direction" of Ronwaldo Reyes. As director Poe has been called a master of locale, color and magic. His Panday series based on a so-so *komiks* novel has been called "an awesome orchestration of spectacle, setting and special effects."

Poe has also been commended for his interest in film education, which he supports with grants, and for his foresight in preserving his films. As it has turned out, this also made good business sense because he is now earning millions from the well-preserved films.

He has a reputation for dealing with women like a true gentleman. But there is gossip that like Joseph "Erap" Estrada, his friend, he has had some "extracurricular" liaisons. Like Erap also, he likes to drink. In 1956, his pay for the stunt job in "Simaron" was all the beer he could drink. He has come a long way from that; several years ago he drew a cool P100 million plus a new P2-million Land Rover for appearing in the San Miguel Christmas TV commercial.

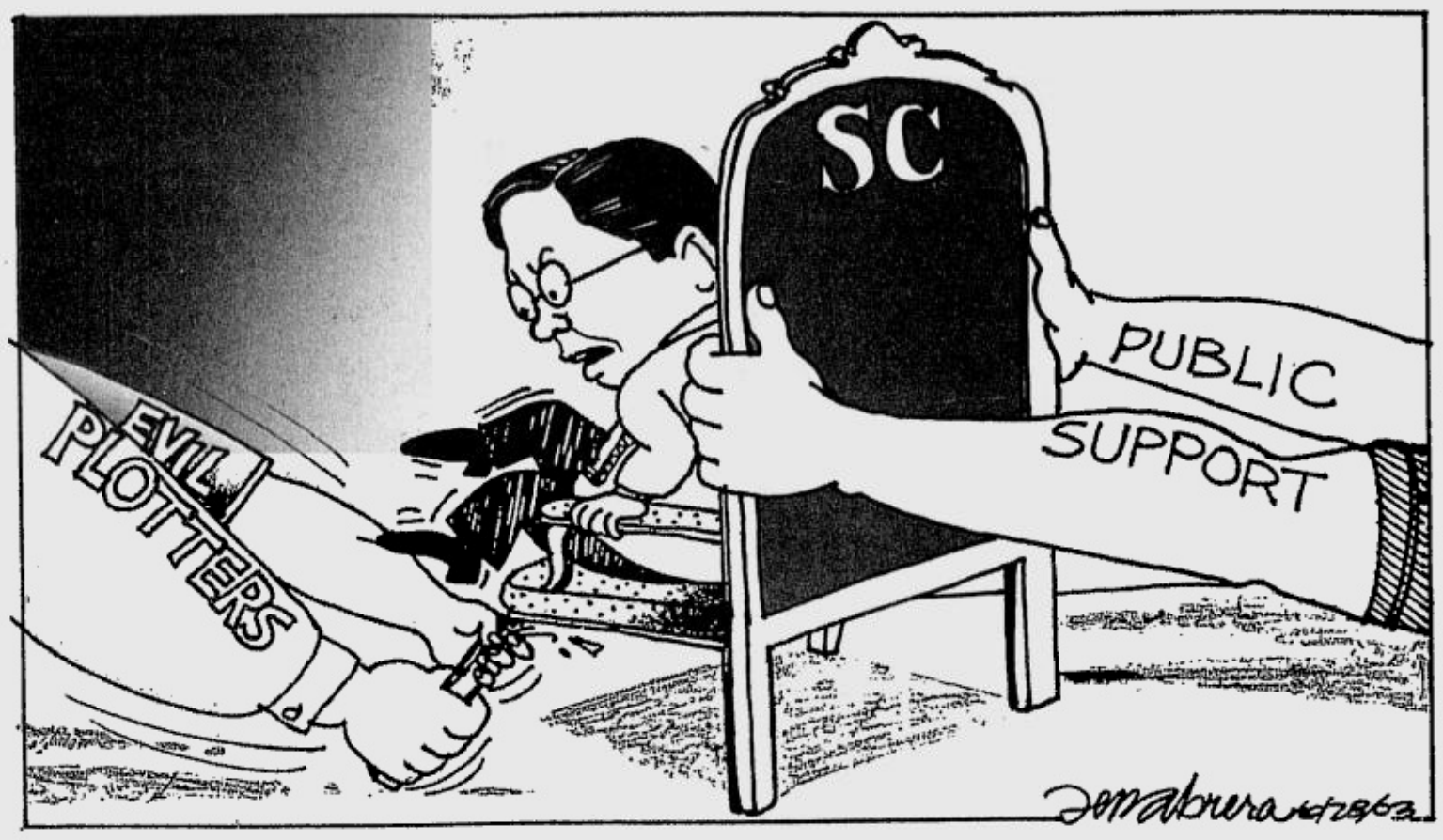
Movie director Uro Q. de la Cruz said that while Erap shared the limelight with FPJ, they seemed to have an unwritten agreement: FPJ would play the good guy and Erap the bad guy. Poe, more than Estrada, has been the most consistently popular Filipino star, and this is why he is called "Da King." He has prevailed for about half a century.

"Poe has never been tainted by corruption attendant to power and wealth," De la Cruz said. "He never questioned the necessity of being decent."

For the past eight years, Poe has always denied that he had any political plans, much less any plan to run for president. In 1995, he said, when asked if he was changing his mind: "*Ayoko talaga* (I really don't want it). Politics is not for me. *Mas magulo* (It's more disorderly)." In May 2003: "I'd rather stay in show biz and make movies."

But now he is under strong pressure from various sectors to run as the opposition's candidate for president. They say he's "a sure winner" because of his popularity. He has given himself two weeks to decide. Poe himself knows what his capabilities and aptitudes, his strengths and weaknesses are.

Poe is a smart man, otherwise he would not have survived for five decades in the highly competitive world of show business. The presidency is a job that should require the highest of qualifications of those who seek it. On one hand, can a high school dropout who has not had any experience in government hack it? On the other hand, does Poe's experience in show business as actor, producer and director provide him with what may be called "equivalency credits"? We hope that he will reach a decision that will be the best for himself and for his country.



Davide's fate hinges on one word: 'initiate'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HOUSE of Representatives impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. because he allegedly misspent P526 million that should have gone to the allowances of employees of the judiciary. Davide was criticized for extravagance. The money, the lawmakers said, went to the construction of cottages in Baguio for Supreme Court justices, for the purchase of luxury vehicles also for justices, and for the renovation of the Supreme Court session hall wherein the curtains alone cost P6 million and each chair allegedly cost P120,000.

But the congressmen and senators themselves have been doing that for years, spending for other things billions of pesos appropriated for public works projects under the pork barrel fund. Now they have impeached the Chief Justice for doing the same thing. They don't want anybody else to outspend them?

The result of the impeachment will hinge on the interpretation of one word: "initiate." What does it mean? Section 3 (5), Article XI of the 1987 Constitution states: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

Last June, former President Estrada filed an impeachment complaint against Davide and seven other justices in connection with the Supreme Court's decision recognizing then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the legitimate President of the Philippines. The House committee on justice found the complaint sufficient in form but not in substance and voted on Oct. 22, 2003 to dismiss it.

The new impeachment complaint against Davide was immediately filed, and it garnered more than the 76 votes (one-third of the House membership) necessary to impeach.

This is unconstitutional, said some lawyers, because it is the second impeachment complaint filed against Davide within one year. No, said the congressmen. The Constitution says "initiated," not "filed." And only one impeachment complaint, the second one, has been "initiated." The first one was "filed" but not "initiated," the lawmakers said. Mere "filing" of a complaint does not "initiate" an impeachment complaint, they explained.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "initiate" as "to bring into practice or use; introduce by first doing or using; help to begin doing something..." The pertinent definition of the same dictionary for "file" is "to register" (an application, etc.); "to put (a legal document) on public record; to initiate (a divorce suit or other legal action)..."

So was the first impeachment complaint "initiated" or not? If it was, then the second one is unconstitutional.

It was not "initiated", said the congressmen. It was "filed" but not "initiated." Under House rules (and the Constitution authorized the House to make the impeachment rules), an impeachment complaint is not "initiated" until it is voted upon by the whole House and sent to the Senate. The first complaint was not voted upon by the whole House, only by the committee on justice. So only the second complaint which was voted upon and got more than the required one-third vote of the House has been "initiated," they said.

But House rules cannot supersede the Constitution, said Davide in a television interview. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention that wrote the 1986 Constitution and the records will show that the framers meant "filing" and "initiation" as the same thing, he said.

What do you think? This one word "initiate," believe it or not, can spell trouble for the whole nation.

What would happen if somebody files a petition with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint? What if the justices decide it is unconstitutional? (But will their decision be credible, considering that they decided in favor of their chief?) Then Davide doesn't have to submit himself to a trial in the Senate.

But what if the Senate and the House insist on going through with the impeachment trial? Can the Senate cite Davide for contempt? Can it order the arrest and detention of the Chief Justice? What if Davide resists arrest? What can the third branch of government, the executive represented by the President, do?

A stalemate, a constitutional crisis. A serious crisis like this can encourage the ambitious in the military to take over, on the pretext of saving the country. Then we will have another martial law regime, another dictatorship. We will be truly another banana republic.

And all because of one short word with an unclear meaning.

* * *

Political lawyer Romulo Makalintal sent his own analysis of the issue. Impeachment proceedings, he said, had been clearly "initiated" against Davide and the seven justices when the committee on justice took cognizance of the Estrada complaint. Hence, pursuant to the constitutional provision, no impeachment proceedings can be initiated against the Chief Justice and the seven justices within a period of one year, i.e. from Oct. 23, 2003 to Oct. 23, 2004.

Even on the merits, Makalintal added, the second impeachment complaint against Davide is "dismissable."

"Not a single allegation has been made that Chief Justice Davide pocketed or used for his own benefit even a single centavo of the Judiciary Development Fund," he said. "Not a single court employee, judge or justice, has executed an affidavit of complaint charging Davide with any irregularity in handling the said funds... And not even a single official of the Commission on Audit... has made any official pronouncement of any irregularity committed by the Chief Justice in handling the said funds."

The best laid plots

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. was magnificent. "I hope the evil plotters of the second impeachment complaint heed the voice of their conscience. I address this to Speaker Jose de Venecia and to Congressman William Fuentebella himself: Congress, especially the Lower House, should never allow itself to be an instrument of destruction of our democratic institutions. It should, as a matter of fact, be the first to preserve it. The last bulwark of democracy, the guardian of the Constitution, the guardian of the rule of law, is the judiciary."

He said this in an interview with Presbitero Velasco Jr. on ANC. He repeated the same message in Velasco's law program, "Iyo ang Katarungan," on IBC 13 later on, after taking care to dispose of the charges against him of spiriting away funds meant for court personnel. Unlike Mike Arroyo who hid behind his younger brother, who in turn pitifully hid behind the "right to privacy," Davide met the charge head-on, showing documents to prove the money he was supposed to be chucking away was well accounted for. It wasn't just that the money was being disbursed correctly, it was that the money was being disbursed efficiently. Far more efficiently than in the past.

Davide in fact was being impeached for something he deserved a medal for. He should compare notes with Acsa Ramirez.

He pointed out the maliciousness of the second impeachment move. You cannot impeach a public official twice in a year. He himself had participated in the drafting of the 1987 Constitution and knew whereof he spoke. The point of forbidding it is to prevent the impeachment process from being trivialized or used to harass an official. The NPC congressmen's argument that the first effort to impeach him last May was not really consummated and therefore this is just the first time he is being impeached is wrong. An impeachment is consummated once it is filed, not when it prospers in Congress.

The only thing lacking in Davide's indictment, or plea, was that it failed to include Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom Joker Arroyo—an erstwhile GMA ally but who has been stunned to reason by this madness—has logically implicated in the plot to oust Davide. The NPC doesn't have the numbers in Congress. Their plot could not have succeeded without help from Lakas and therefore Malacañang. They supplied the warm bodies for the coup—or at least what they thought in their delusional state would be one. Had Davide reminded GMA she should be the first to preserve this country's democratic institutions and not destroy them, he could not have found a better mark.

That is particularly so in the light of several alarming developments this past week or so, which augurs darkly for democracy. The first one is the remarkable rise of "terrorist" activity immediately after George Bush's visit. The ploy not only tries to revive Bush's globally discredited agenda, it not only makes people forget GMA "salvaged" Al-Ghozi as clearly as Panfilo Lacson "salvaged" the Kuratong Baleleng suspects, it also gives GMA a free hand to do anything she pleases in the guise of "fighting terror."

The ruthlessness is patent in the sacking of Cotabato police chief Perako Makakua, who protested that government troops planted the terror manual and chemical bombs in an apartment they called a Jemaah Islamiyah safe house. "He has committed a very grave offense," PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane intoned. But of course he has. He has told the truth. That is the gravest offense in this country. Makakua too should compare notes with Acsa Ramirez.

The second is the Comelec's decision to end the registration period this Friday after suspending it by half a year and well before the prescribed legal period which is 120 days before elections. That automatically shuts the door on a great many voters, notably first-time voters, or the youth. Alongside the Comelec's choice of an IT group that was formed only this year to do its automated counting, we are looking at the prospect of systematic and wholesale cheating next year.

The (attempted) ouster of Davide completes the picture. Particularly if he is replaced by someone from the Villaraza law office, or a lackey—it is The Firm, it has Mafia written all over it—GMA can control the elections. She can count on darkness to fall on Mindanao and other parts of the country while prosecuting the "war against terror," she can count votes she never got, and she can count on the new Supreme Court to uphold everything she does. That is the only way she can win.

What they clearly didn't count on was a backlash, an outpouring of public wrath. What they clearly did not count on was a people being pushed to the limit, after taking in abuse after abuse, and saying, "*Tama na, sobra na, palitan na*."

The day after they mounted the obscenity, the congressmen, still brimming with triumph, were asking Davide to resign to prevent a constitutional crisis. Davide resign? They should resign—or hide—to avoid being strung up from the nearest tree.

What hubris! The same disease Marcos suffered from (even worse than lupus!), the same overweening sense of power, the same delusion they can do anything they want. William Fuentebella, an utter disgrace to Bicol and Camarines Sur, in particular. His name, "Wimpy," says it all. Of course, the others are now trying to dissociate themselves from him and Gilbert Teodoro, terrified by the sudden and very loud clanging at the gate, the way their boss, Danding Cojuangco, felt in February 1986, before he slipped away in the dark of night. They won't get away so easily. Neither will Danding, this time.

The best laid plots of mice and men are always thwarted by the hand of Fate. In this case, by the kiss of utter stupidity.

Shades of Edsa I

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, speaking at the 25th anniversary of the Concerned Women of the Philippines, disclosed her behind-the-scene role in mediating the crisis between the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives. Doubtless this was in answer to criticism that she allegedly "abandoned" Chief Justive Hilario Davide. GMA revealed that while she would have preferred to remain neutral out of respect for the separation of powers between the three branches, she now feels that the "political threshold" has been reached, whereby presidential intervention became necessary in order to avert bigger disasters, including military adventurism. GMA disclosed that over the weekend she spoke to the Chief Justice, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Eduardo Cojuangco, whose Nationalist People's Coalition led the impeachment move against Davide, but that no deals with any "vested group" were cut. Actually, she had been closely monitoring this issue, even though ostensibly she remained "neutral." Last Thursday, in fact, when the impeachment complaint was filed in the House at 11:30 a.m., GMA met with De Venecia and Senate President Franklin Drilon at the Palace quite urgently to discuss it. She has been been in touch with them since. Her key officials were also at work.

* * *

I spoke to Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice, the first of several House members who have withdrawn their signatures from the impeachment complaint. Erice, who began his 20-year stint in government as a clerk and then councilor before challenging ex-Mayor Boy Asistio for Congress, explained that when he signed it he thought, as in the Tancangco impeachment case that he also supported, it would first go to the justice committee where all the aspects of the Judicial Development Fund (JDF) would be studied. But to his surprise, he said, it snowballed under the leadership of the NPC, short-circuiting the committee. Erice opined that impeachment is too radical a solution, and doubtless there are a number of lawmakers who feel the same way. As this column was being written, several others have withdrawn, among them, Representatives Maurice Domogan and Rufino Rosanno Biazon and party-list Representatives JV Bautista and Renato Magtubo. I hope more would follow.

* * *

The big crowds that trooped to the House yesterday to rally for Davide, all wearing black armbands, are just a tiny indication of the outrage sweeping the nation. In Cebu it became a huge conflagration as the "Movement for Judicial Independence" gained ground, with a boycott of San Miguel Corp. In San Fernando, Pampanga, a big indignation rally led by Rep. Oscar Rodriguez is scheduled this Thursday. I can see shades of Edsa 1 again and the earlier this crisis is solved, the better for the country.

* * *

Reports are rife about a "win-win solution" whereby the Supreme Court agrees to the "oversight" function of Congress over the JDF, while the House bloc withdraws its complaint. The problem here is that there's no guarantee that Congress members would be satisfied with looking into the JDF alone; soon some lawmakers will train their guns on the judiciary budget itself, despite constitutional prohibitions, stoking tensions anew. The best thing is for Congress to amend the PD that created the JDF under the "sole prerogative" of the Chief Justice, and define that oversight function, *para walang gulo*.

* * *

Several House members have admitted that many signed the complaint partly because of their peeve over Davide's letter to De Venecia, where he argued that to agree to the House scrutiny into the JDF would imperil the constitutionally guaranteed fiscal autonomy of the judiciary. Apparently some House members felt that instead of being "arrogant," Davide should have taken pains to explain his handling of the JDF. As a result they decided to file that impeachment complaint. Sadly, little did they consider its serious implications and the country's welfare, and how it dissipates all the gains from the successful Bush visit and RP's entry into the UN Security Council.

It's obvious that some of our lawmakers acted with immaturity and impulsiveness, quite apart from the political agenda attributed to the NPC. In a way they remind people of the Oakwood mutineers, who launched a coup attempt because of their gripes about corruption in government, unmindful of its devastating consequences for the economy and political stability. One can say that both groups were out to look for rats, but sought to burn the house. I agree with the analysis that one of the biggest casualties of the impeachment move is the constituent assembly drive. Now, people are saying, how can one trust the House to amend the charter?

* * *

For the first time since its creation in 1995, the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACOM) holds a conference today to assess its implementation. VFACOM executive director Amado D. Valdez said some 80 participants from government agencies and select journalists and students of international studies from De La Salle-Manila are attending today's confab at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, on the theme "Achieving Peace and Development Through Security Partnership." Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who co-chairs VFACOM with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, will keynote the conference, while INQUIRER's Amando Doronila will be the luncheon speaker on "Experience in Bases Negotiations and Communication Strategies." This will be followed by a workshop with Foreign Undersecretary Rosario Manalo as facilitator. Undersecretary Valdez considers this meet historic as it provides the forum for an authoritative assessment of the VFA, in relation to the objectives of EO 199 and Senate Resolution 18, which ratified the VFA.

Believing a woman

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT does it take before we believe a woman? When a woman goes public with a story of abuse, why is it that society reserves its opinion until they know more, not about the case itself, but about her, the victim?

If she is articulate and can tell her story without flinching, people will say she is too glib, perhaps rehearsed. If she finds access to the media and brings her case to the bar of public opinion despite the stigma against victims of sexual crimes, she is resorting to trial by publicity and abusing the power of the media. If she is no longer a virgin and admits to previous sexual experiences, then she had it coming. If she has a good head on her shoulders and is not exactly a shrinking violet, then she could not have possibly been victimized, and if she was violated, then she must have somehow invited it, or conspired in it.

What does a woman have to be before we believe her? Must she be a young virgin, chaste and untouched, defenseless, innocent of the ways of the world, incapable of fighting back, passive and ever-patient? But if she remains silent, meek and yielding, then people will say, well, what did she expect? No wonder the man took advantage of her, she wouldn't even raise a finger to defend herself!

If character, accomplishment, money and stature were enough to protect a woman against rape, then businesswomen, professionals, and yes, even TV celebrities, would have nothing to fear. But women, it seems, have fought to prove themselves the equal of men in the workplace only to have the abilities they have won by hard work thrown back at their faces when they come forward with their stories. As if the only defense a woman needs to ward off a rapist is to brandish a diploma and paycheck before him.

* * *

SHORTLY after meeting Karen Vertido, who had defied public opinion in Davao by going public with her charges of rape against a supposedly respectable businessman, I wrote a column based on an analysis by the Women's Legal Bureau of the Supreme Court's decisions in rape cases over the past decades.

In that column, I outlined what Karen could expect, based on the pattern discerned from the Supreme Court's rulings. The Court tended to uphold rape convictions, it was found, when the victim was young, sexually inexperienced, if she was caught by surprise or deceived by her abuser, and if she fought back and was hurt or injured as a result. Only rarely was the rape of a married woman upheld. And never, in the decades studied, was the rape of a prostitute ever deliberated upon by the Court, because there had never been a conviction by a lower court, assuming a prostitute had ever worked up the courage to sue her rapist in the first place.

When I met her after the column came out, Karen chided me for "deflating" her spirits, since she was upbeat and determined to pursue her case with the support of women's groups and friends from Davao and Manila.

* * *

TODAY, Karen says the column only hinted at the difficulties she would face, for nothing could have prepared her for the ordeal that would follow.

Incredibly, it has been eight years since the case was first lodged in the Davao Regional Trial Court. Her daughter Kai, who was only a shy little girl of 11 when I first met her, is now 19, a college junior. Laughingly, Karen says she has even made the transition into menopause in the course of the hearings.

The case almost didn't make it to court. The Davao prosecutor at first dismissed the charges, arguing that Karen was not the "typical" rape victim since she was a married career woman and "no longer an innocent in the ways of the world." Fortunately, the Department of Justice (then under Vice President Tito Guingona) reversed that prosecutor and the case proceeded to court. Eight years, one disappearance by and the constant hospitalization of the accused, and changes in judges and counsel later, the case is winding down.

Now lodged in the sala of Judge Virginia Europa, the case is due for resolution, with the last hearings scheduled for Nov. 19 and 20 and Dec. 10 and 11.

The last eight years have not been uneventful. Karen and her children have left Davao, unable to withstand the stares of strangers who recognize her from the papers, and the jibes and cruel innuendoes of radio commentators. Dam Vertido, Karen's husband, has remained behind in Davao where he works. "We now call ourselves an 'OCW couple,'" Karen jokes, since they see each other just once or twice a month. "The biggest miracle for me is that we, the Vertidos, have remained whole and strong despite the many tests."

* * *

KAREN says she is sometimes reluctant to tell women, especially other rape victims who come to her for advice, exactly what to expect should they decide to pursue the legal option. "I'm afraid I'll discourage them and prevent them from getting justice for themselves."

But when I ask her, knowing what she knows now, if she would still have pursued the case, she gives me a look and says: "Yes, I still would. I wish it had not taken this long, I wish I didn't have to leave Davao, but, yes, I would still pursue the case." She nods vigorously when I remark that, knowing exactly what's at stake—eight years or more out of your life—a woman could not possibly sue for rape for flimsy or selfish reasons. It's a pain no woman needs.

Karen tells of a young rape survivor who, when she asked what the young woman wanted, said simply: "I want to be believed." In many ways, that's also all what women who tell their stories want: to be believed. That's what Kris demanded of Joey: to have the truth of her story acknowledged. Eight years after, Karen says wistfully: "I don't know what else the world is asking from me before it will believe me."

The Philippine puzzle

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

EDGAR Snow, author and political commentator, wrote a series of articles in 1939 warning about Japanese intentions and propaganda. Many of our leaders believed that Japan sincerely had Philippine independence from Western influence at heart. There were even rumors that Manuel Quezon tried to cut a deal with the Japanese in the event that they won.

However, what I found interesting were Snow's observations about Philippine resources. Our iron reserves were twice what Japan could hope to obtain from China and we had the world's largest chrome deposits. We had the greatest forests in all of East Asia, 97 percent of which belonged to the government. (Given that there's only about 5 percent left, what happened to the 92 percent?)

Luzon, by its lonesome, produced $80 million worth of gold yearly. Aside from that there was nickel, rubber, copra, tobacco, hemp, fruit, rice and sugar lands. Only two-thirds of the land had been developed before the war.

On the other hand, nearly a hundred Japanese companies were allowed to operate plantations in Davao so that Japan controlled 70 percent of the abaca production. More than half of all the hemp, lumber, copra and fish exported from Davao went through the Japanese who controlled 95 percent of Davao's exports to the United States.

Davao Gulf is three times the size of Manila Bay and has a fine harbor. One wonders how many Filipino-owned ships do the bulk of carrying and berthing or how many of those wharves do we operate. How has this resource benefited the Filipino? What is the average per capita income in Davao? Does Davao then have better public facilities such as hospitals, clinics, public housing and schools than the rest of the country?

So the question has to occur to you: what happened that we're low on the totem pole, second only to Bangladesh in development? Even granting that Marcos set us back, that he was the worst thing that ever happened to us bar none, that regime was 20 years ago. Two decades later, we're still suffering from the same social ills that the late dictator claimed he would remedy: peace and order problems, inflation, underemployment and unemployment, insurgency, poor education, injustice, corruption. The only difference is that we appear to have less of a choice in so far as national leadership is concerned. And this despite our trying a housewife, a military man and a movie actor as president.

We've also tried blaming the Spaniards for not educating us properly, even if according to Dr. Fernando Zialcita, people claim "the Spanish only educated the well to do and that there was no system of public education." The truth is that there was no system of public education in the world before the 19th century. We will not go into the evils of American imperialism because the debate may outlive our earthly existence. Suffice it to say that we have managed to blame everyone else for our miseries, with the exception of ourselves. And in the few instances that we have taken the responsibility, nothing long lasting and concrete has been done about it.

Most of us are aware that changes have to be made in the educational system. Throwing money after it has not solved the basic problem of corruption that includes the problem of syndicates with a stranglehold on poor quality textbooks, late salary payments for teachers, use of teachers for duties other than teaching, etc., etc. Despite the sequestration of TV and radio stations, adult and informal education can boast of no successful or laudable program.

With 40 percent of the people living below the poverty line and producing children at an alarming rate who are obviously malnourished, poorly educated and possessing little or no marketable skills, what kind of a population can the Philippines look forward to? If it bothers the present batch of elected officials, they have not shown it. Have the Honorable Revilla, Sotto, Jaworski, De Castro done something for which the Filipino public will be eternally grateful?

As for corruption in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, way back before the Commonwealth, a forest ranger by the name of Vicente Ceballos sold to an army of Japanese immigrants land titles and leases at a fraction of their price by defrauding the Bagobos. The Japanese then proceeded to burn thousands of acres at a cost of $100 million in timber loss. Eventually the man was apprehended, but he managed to escape and, wonder of wonders, no attempt was made to recover the land nor were any of the officials who aided and abetted the corruption made to answer.

At the time Japan sold more goods to the Philippines than all European countries combined. No doubt the figures have changed by now, but not the fact that we are an importing country that cannot even feed its own people the basic rice and fish diet. Visit any supermarket where our once famed *milagrosa* rice goes under the name of "jasmine" and is produced in Thailand. Now tell me again that "the Filipino can," as Joe Concepcion claimed 20 years ago, or that "this nation can be great again," as Marcos trumpeted. That the Filipino can has been proven by its immigrants to other countries, but certainly not by its officials who do not appear to have a clue as to what constitutes governance, governing and leading by example.

(*Edgar Snow, "Japan's Peaceful Invasion," Asia, 1939.*)

Poverty

MY dad believes that the only people who are real, honest and good are the poor; anyone who doesn't have to worry about where his next meal is coming from is a dishonest, corrupt, self-serving criminal.

Apparently many people share his views. If you missed the May Day riots two years ago which showed how many Filipinos think like he does, you can tune in to almost any AM station to hear the common *tao* rant against the rich who cause all their problems. In their reasoning, the rich are the devil's agents who collaborate to keep them poor, hungry, uneducated and unclad. Along the way, they plotted to overthrow their champion Erap Estrada, forced their children to beg in the streets, gave them various diseases, started epidemics to stamp out the poor and are generally engaged in some conspiracy to keep them "in their place."

YOUNG BLOOD

Jonathan de Santos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Never mind that many well-off people actually worked hard for their money and sacrificed a lot of things to get where they are. Survey says, if you aren't poor, you're evil.

Having spent time in the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist activist movement, I know that there are unscrupulous capitalists who do exploit their workers, and there are land grabbers and corrupt politicians and that there are a lot of things wrong with the system. More often than not, some foreign capitalist enterprise is oppressing its workers or giving them drugs to keep them awake.

But even all this does not serve as a carte blanche for the poor to do whatever they want to do for the simple reason that they are, well, poor. It seems as if every criminal—from an armed robber to a murderer to the most depraved rapist—has been forced to live a life of crime because of poverty. And because he had been forced to act the way he did by extreme poverty, we have to forgive him for he did know not what he was doing, otherwise we'd be labelled as self-important, insensitive and heartless.

My dad screamed his head off once when I asked him what the people at "Edsa III" hoped to achieve by going on a rampage. He launched a harangue that lasted for well over 10 minutes about how people like me and the Jesuits and the Makati Business Club and anyone who went to college were blind to the plight of the poor because we were all just intent on getting rich and living in luxury. Ask a simple question, and get an earful of invectives.

Poverty has also been used as an excuse for being impolite, crude and generally being a nuisance. Spitting in public is okay if you're poor because you don't know any better. Cursing others is understandable because anyone who doesn't give spare change to the street beggar must be selfish. Sniffing solvent is all right because it helps numb the pain of hunger; so anyone who tries to stop the street children from getting high simply doesn't get it. Holding buses and jeepneys up is excusable because you were forced into a life of crime by extreme poverty, never mind if the people you robbed probably aren't much better off. Getting drunk in the middle of the day is okay when you're poor because you don't have to conform to a society that doesn't do you any favors. And there's no point in getting a job because you'll just help the capitalists get richer and the poor get poorer.

In the same way that one shouldn't be allowed to get away with anything just because he is rich, being poor should never be used as a justification for criminal behavior. Poverty should never be considered a virtue.

Jonathan de Santos, 22, is a junior in library and information science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Unknown

Orlando P. Sayman Jr.

IT'S safe to be unknown. You can wander freely, and unless you do something unusual that catches people's attention, like attempting to jump off a flyover, nobody will give you a glance. They will let you be, and you can be yourself.

This comfort zone vanishes, though, when you are compelled to socialize with other human beings. Nobody is interested in talking to a nonentity. It's a bore. No thrill, no excitement, no whatever.

I came to this when I arrived in the city for my college education. Like most other freshmen, I had to introduce myself, and tell my classmates and teachers where I came from and all those other confessions. Since I coming from a remote place they mistook for an island serving as an entry point to Indonesia during low tide, I had to go to great lengths describing the geography of my place of origin. Since I knew little about directions, all I could say was that: (1) it's at the tip of the big Philippine island; (2) they were right in concluding it's surrounded by fierce seas and high mountains; and (3) the dialect we speak sounds similar to other dialects spoken in Southeast Asia although I wasn't very sure about that.

That was how I survived my first day of classes. Still, I was envious of my other classmates who were spared the ordeal of providing encyclopedic descriptions of their addresses. How I wished then that I did not come from such an unfamiliar place.

As if those years of anonymity in college were not enough, after graduation I had to deal with people who found my course intriguing. When I told them I majored in literature, they would ask, "What's that?" So I had to go through the routine of explaining: "We study poems, stories, plays. Some of them are such that you might think they were not written by somebody from this planet."

Fast forward to the present. I am currently working as a quality assurance officer in a maritime school. My job description says I am in charge of ISO and other communications. "ISO what?" There's that question again.

I myself don't understand my job very well. Just consider how the items in my Quality Manual are numbered: 4.5.3.2.1.

There's much explaining to do when one is unknown. Yet nobody understands. How sad.

What if I were well known like a celebrity? Perhaps, things would be different. When I enter an establishment, for example, people will sit up and notice. I won't have to exert much effort to be heard. But everything would be insincere.

I'd rather be unknown.

Orlando P. Sayman Jr., 24, works in the Agro-Industrial Foundation College of the Philippines, Davao City.

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Contempt for the Constitution

IF the rule of law is going nowhere in this country, the House of Representatives appears to be leading the way. On Oct. 23, 87 (*now 93—Ed.*) of the 226 members of the House signed an impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. alleging misuse of the Judicial Development Fund. In explaining the move, one of the complainants was reported to have said: "This is a purely legal issue. No one is above the law."

Whether the Chief Justice has violated any law will soon be the issue before the Senate acting as an impeachment court. But what is known at this point is that in impeaching the Chief Justice, the House has itself violated the supreme law of the land. Only a few days ago, the same House considered and rejected an impeachment initiative against the Chief Justice on a completely different set of issues. Yet Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution is categorical: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year." The use of the controlling word "initiated" clearly shows the second complaint against the Chief Justice is unwarranted.

It is unconceivable how the House could have failed to consider this express constitutional limitation on its power to impeach officials. As lawmakers, members of Congress must be the first to uphold the rule of law. By disregarding our supreme law, they have shown contempt for the very institution they seek to uphold and protect.

—HENEDINA RAZON-ABAD, CARLOS P. MEDINA JR., CESAR VILLANUEVA, SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA, AMPARITA STA. MARIA, MELENCIO STA. MARIA, MYFRI S. GONZALEZ, MARIFE YAP, Schools and Centers, Ateneo de Manila University, QC

Improved amenities at Chocolate Hills

WE read Gerald Basel's letter to the INQUIRER regarding his visit to Bohol. We are pleased that he found Bohol a beautiful place to visit.

We, from the Bohol Provincial Government are apologetic that he had a bad experience at Chocolate Hills. It was unfortunate that he visited the place when the comfort rooms in the complex were still not up to standard.

However, we have addressed this problem. We are happy to inform him that in June of this year, we opened new comfort rooms in the restaurant. They are very clean and well maintained.

We acknowledge the importance of providing the best amenities to our tourists. No matter how limited our financial resources are, we try our best to keep the standards of an ideal tourist destination.

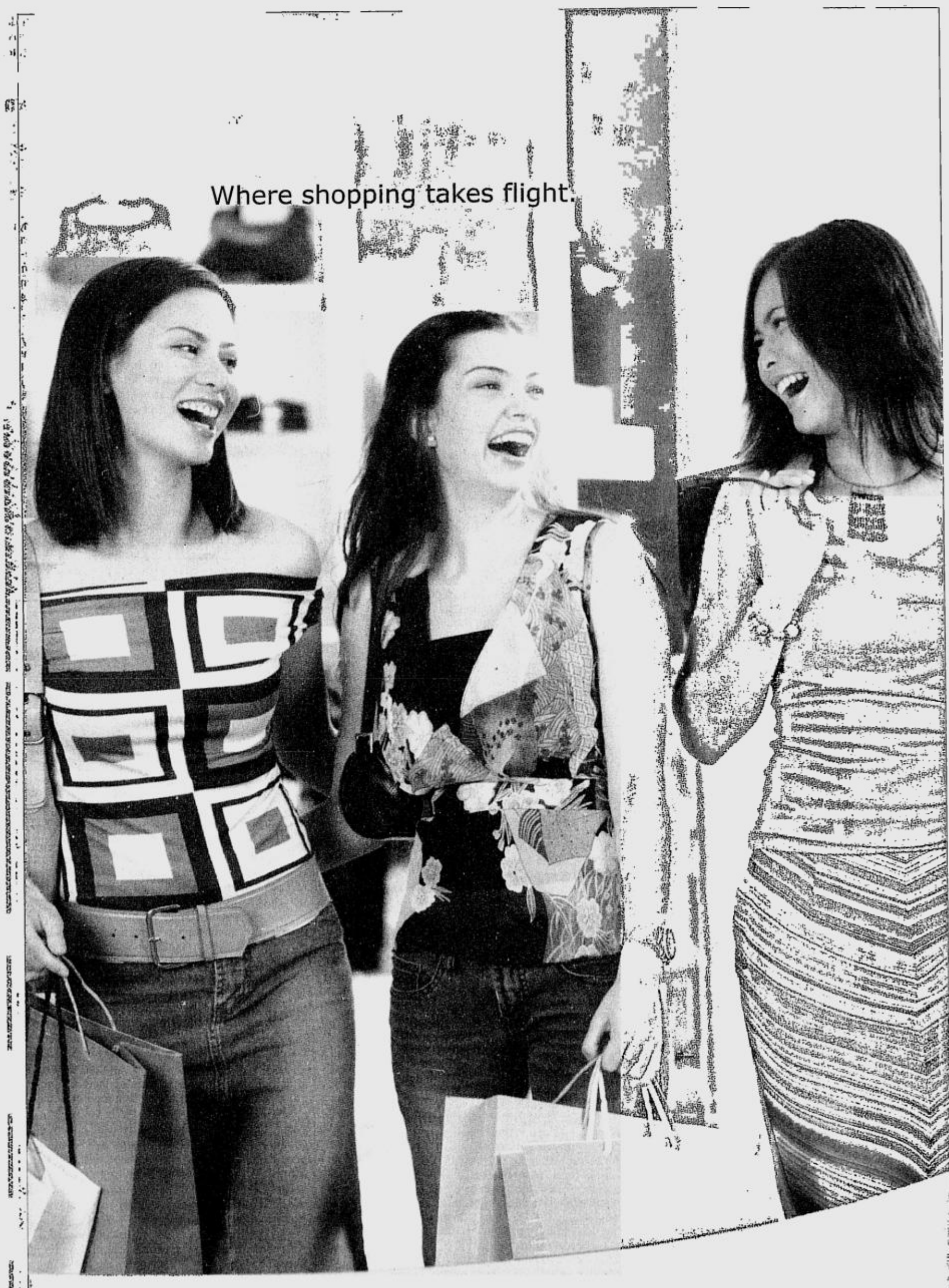
—ORONCIA D. BALIO, provincial tourism officer, Bohol Tourism Office, G/F Provincial Capitol Complex, Marapao St., Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Undermining democracy

I'VE always thought politicians shouldn't have anything to do with managing elections in the country. The appointment of Benjamin Abalos as Comelec chair essentially guaranteed President Macapagal-Arroyo's reelection in 2004. With all the tax money poured into the Comelec to automate the next elections, we are now being conditioned to expect a highly suspect combination of automated and manual counting in 2004. With all the time and resources given them, is this all they have to show for it?

I love my country, but I fear that the very principles of our democracy are being undermined by those who have been given the power to preserve them.

—IAN MOLINA, ianpm@hotmail.com



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Asia's iron women

TENACIOUS, even in the way she clung on to life. That was what I thought reading about Soong Mei-ling's death last week, at the age of 105.

Mei-ling was the last of the three Soong sisters, who have been the subject of several English and Chinese books, as well as a joint Hong Kong-US film. The interest in the Soong sisters shouldn't be surprising: their colorful lives were in a sense the original long-playing Chino-novela, complete with all the intriguing twists and turns through China's byzantine corridors of power.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The eldest Soong sister, Ai-ling, married into a wealthy banking family and mainly managed her family's huge business ventures. The second sister, Soong Qing-ling (sometimes spelled Ching-ling), was the wife of Sun Yat-sen, who led the Chinese revolution that toppled the Qing dynasty in 1911 and became China's first president. Soong Qing-ling's politics were left-leaning and she remained in China after the communists took over, eventually becoming honorary chair of the People's Republic. Not surprisingly, Soong Qing-ling was estranged from her two capitalist sisters.

Soong Mei-ling was the youngest. She married Chiang Kai-shek, who was rabidly anti-communist. Chiang became president of China after Sun Yat-sen and had to deal with a nation thoroughly plundered by Western powers and by local Chinese warlords. His own government was corrupt and he was eventually defeated by the communists in 1949. Chiang fled to Taiwan, where he remained president, a virtual dictator, till his death in 1975.

As Madame Chiang, Soong Mei-ling wielded great influence, advising as well as representing her husband. In 1943, she swept through the United States, raising funds for Chiang's army to fight the Japanese. A speech before a joint session of the US Congress, delivered in her Southern accented English, was a turning point in convincing the members of Congress to extend war aid to China. After the fall of the Chiang government, she directed the Taiwan government's propaganda efforts, lobbying for continuing American support for her husband's government.

If people are intrigued by the Soong sisters, it is because they seemed to exert so much power in such a patriarchal society like China, a country where for a thousand years mothers bound their daughters' feet with cloth to keep them as tiny as three inches, effectively sequestering them to their homes and dependent on their husbands.

The Soong sisters remind us that even in Asia's male-dominated societies, you will find very powerful women in the public domain, so-called "iron ladies," if we are to borrow the description used for Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. To some extent, this ability to rise up in politics is a function of class—the Soong sisters' came from a well-to-do family that was westernized. Their father was a Methodist minister who lived 15 years in the United States and later sent his daughters back to the United States for college. Soong Mei-ling spoke English with a southern American drawl, acquired in Georgia, and later went to Boston's Wellesley College where she majored in English.

It did help, too, that the Soong sisters married very powerful men. Such marriages have been used to explain how women become powerful political leaders in Asia. All the women who have become presidents or prime ministers in Asia were either wives or daughters of male leaders.

Some, like Corazon Aquino, were swept into power on a sympathy vote after their husbands were assassinated. Others, like our own president and Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri, returned to presidential palaces formerly occupied by their fathers.

Then there were the first ladies. China had Chiang Qing, Mao Zedong's wife, a third-rate actress who usurped power as Mao turned senile. The Soong sisters were a different breed, aristocratic women who kept low but influential profiles, Soong Qing-ling as Sun Yat Sen's widow, and Soong Mei-ling as Madame Chiang.

Unfortunately, quite often these women's privileged class background prevented them from relating to their own people. Some, like Indonesia's president, were just too distant, sheltered in their own world. Our President, on the other hand, tries too hard and fails, perceptions of her insincerity coming from her condescending demeanor.

The likes of Madame Chiang had no populist pretensions. She shocked Eleanor Roosevelt during a dinner at the White House when, asked how the Chinese government was going to handle a coal miners' strike, she drew her finger—probably with a crimson, manicured, long and sharp fingernail—across her neck.

After all's said and done, it seems our Asian iron women don't do too well as leaders, and I feel this is because they still draw their models of leadership from the male world. Our President's "strong republic" rhetoric, for example, reeks too much of Marcos' despotism and Bush's lust for vengeful wars. She and other women leaders would gain far more respect if they could learn from the more moral and humanist women leaders. I am thinking of at least two Nobel Peace Prize laureates: the Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (herself the daughter of a nationalist politician) and Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer, judge and human rights activist.

No doubt, we will always remember, and remain intrigued by the likes of Madame Chiang, Madame Mao and Imelda Marcos. And we will try, too, not to be too harsh when talking about the daughters of Sukarno and Macapagal. But history will ask, too, if these women might have left a more lasting legacy if they could have transcended gender and class, their husbands and fathers, to each become a leader in her own right.

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Mining firm wins permit to explore

MATI, Davao Oriental—Despite strong opposition from residents, one of the nine large-scale mining companies scrambling to exploit the mineral-rich fishing villages of protected Pujada Bay here got a permit to start the exploration.

Edgar Martinez, president of the Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries (Mina), said that Blue Ridge Mineral Corp. is set to start its exploration activities here after getting a "temporary exploration permit" from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The issuance of the exploration permit caught residents by surprise.

The Mining Act of 1995 requires mining companies to secure the approval of residents of the proposed mining sites before starting their operations.

"Until now, they do not know that we have already gotten the (exploration) permit," Martinez said.

Fr. Medardo Salomia, leader of the Interfaith Movement for Peace Empowerment and Development or IMPEDE, however, said they would challenge before the courts MGB's issuance of the exploration permit.

Salomia said the issuance was "irregular" saying the people were opposed to mining. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Troopers run out of bullets as rebs torch Army detachment

SAN MIGUEL, Zamboanga del Sur—Some 50 fully armed communist rebels attacked and torched a military detachment here that left two militiamen dead during an early morning raid on Monday.

But it took an hour of gunfight before the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas managed to overrun the detachment manned by the Charlie Company of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Fatima here, according to Col. Nehemias Pajarito.

Pajarito, commander of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER, that the rebels split into two groups before storming the detachment around 1 a.m.

Pajarito said the nine-man team manning the detachment, composed of militiamen headed by a soldier identified as Sgt. Jimmy Principe, stood their ground.

Principe was wounded in the attack.

"Our soldiers also managed to inflict undetermined casualties," he said, quoting reports from locals.

Pajarito identified the slain militiamen as Eliseo Bendanillo and Marvin Revilla.

He said during the attack, the rebels used improvised claymore mines and torches dipped in gasoline.

Several militiamen told the INQUIRER the rebels might have not been able to overrun the outpost if the soldiers had enough bullets.

Some of them also said their issued firearms malfunctioned.

"If we had enough supply of ammunition and our rifles did not malfunction, the rebels won't be able to overrun our camp," one of the militiamen, who asked not to be identified, said.

Militiaman Elzer Tumala, 20, said he pretended to be dead "because I had only one clip of ammunition."

Col. Pajarito said the government men showed exceptional gallantry in defending the outpost.

"(Principe) was the one who gave us moral and courage to hold on," Tumala said of their detachment commander.

Col. Pajarito said "this attack was to avenge the series of (losses) the NPA (suffered) in the last three months this year."

In Butuan City, the military yesterday announced the capture of Dionisio Micabalo alias Ka Cardo, the alleged party secretary of the NPA Front Committee 88 and his wife Lorna, the alleged finance officer of 4A Front Committee based in Agusan del Norte during a raid on a safe house here owned by a councilor of San Luis, Agusan del Sur. *Hernan P. dela Cruz with a report from Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Media groups hit bill mandating replies

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Media groups have condemned a bill in Congress seeking to impose fines and imprisonment on editors and owners of newspapers and broadcast stations who fail to publish or air the reply of persons subjected to criticisms and accusations in news reports.

Inday Espina-Varona, vice chair of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP), said House Bill 5774 could be used as a "tool to kill stories and clamp down on the right of the people to a free press."

Solidaridad, a national alliance of student publications and writers' organizations in the University of the Philippines system, and the Iloilo Press Club are also opposing the bill.

Entitled "An Act Granting the Right of Reply and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof," the bill mandates newspapers editors and publishers and managers of radio and television stations to air or publish the reply "in the same place of the newspaper, magazine, newsletter or publication or aired over the same program on radio, television, website, or through any electronic device."

A counterpart proposal, Senate Bill 2110 authored by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., is also pending in the Senate.

The proposed law mandates that the reply should be published or aired "not later than one day" after the reply is delivered to the editorial office of the publication or the broadcast station.

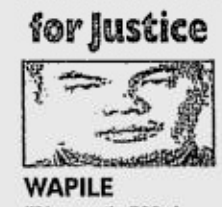
Editors, publishers and station managers who fail to do so face a fine not exceeding P10,000 for the first offense, P20,000 for the second offense, and P30,000 and imprisonment of not more than 30 days for the third offense.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, the author of the bill, noted that most replies to criticism are not aired or published or "comes out a month after in the cartoon section or obituary."

Varona said very few journalists violate the inherent responsibility of the media to get as many sides of a story as possible. She said libel laws already covered the problem that the bill aims to address.

"In fact, it is the other way around. Reporters have a hard time getting the side of public officials who are the subject of critical stories because they usually clamp up," she said.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

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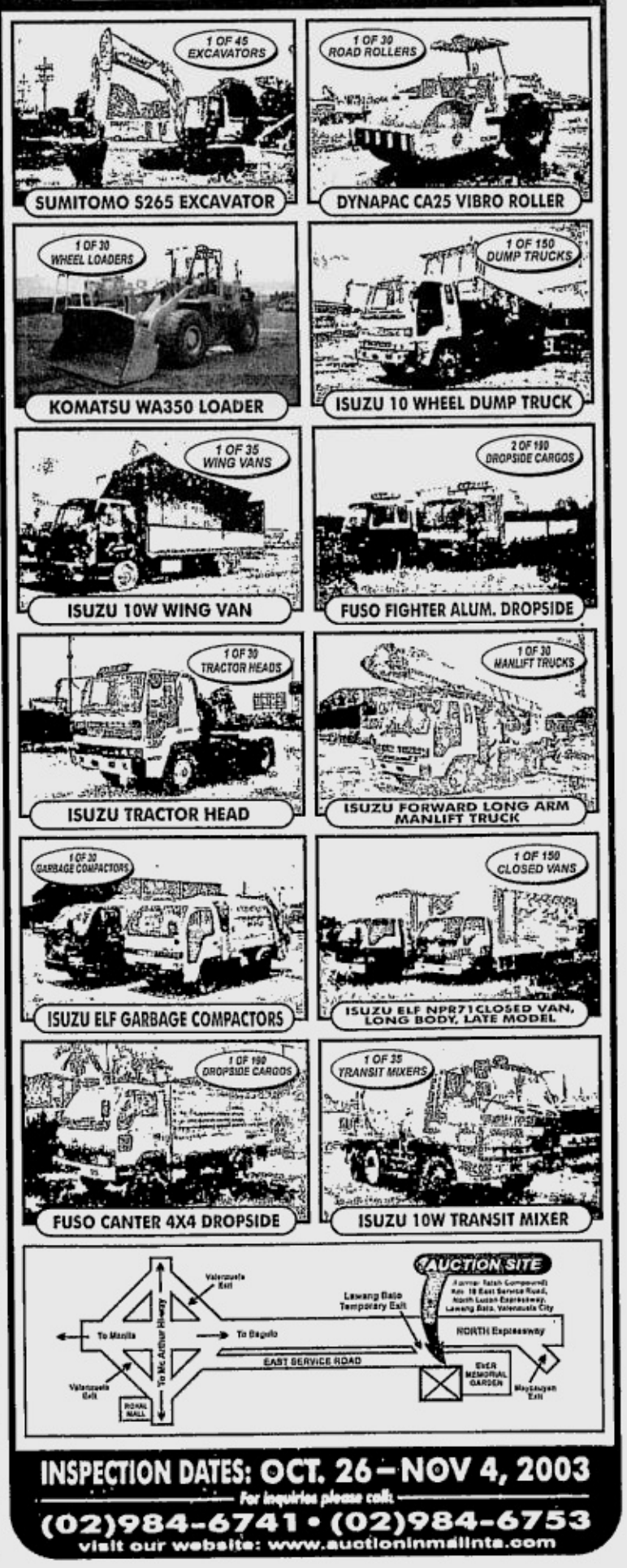

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Ozamiz board seeks ouster of cop chief

OZAMIZ CITY—Unsatisfied by the police's performance, local government officials here are demanding the relief of the city's police chief.

In a resolution passed by the city council last week, local legislators urged Supt. Lyndel Desquitado, Misamis Occidental's provincial police director, to remove Supt. George Galano as head of the city police force.

The local legislators said Galano performed poorly.

They said illegal gambling and illegal drugs continue to haunt the local government because of police failure to stop them.

Serving for over two years now, Galano has a long standing rift with local officials over his refusal to attend meetings called by the local government, especially the city council, to discuss developments in peace and order.

He last appeared before the city councilors in July during which he admitted that several of his men are making money out of illegal gambling operations in the city.

This revelation elicited strong reactions, prompting him to promise an investigation.

When called by city councilors several weeks later to explain the progress of the investigation, Galano repeatedly refused to make himself available.

Public perception of Galano being part of the "protection payroll" of illegal gambling surfaced after officials of Barangay Carmen reported directly to him the operation of video-karera machines in their barangay.

To the dismay of the barangay leaders, the gambling operator arrived earlier to withdraw for safekeeping the machines that were consigned in a house, and a little later the police officers came. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New mining operation worries farmers

By Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CORDON, Isabela—Farmers' groups have expressed concern over the looming operation of a mining project here that would reportedly try to reprocess mine tailings abandoned by a large-scale gold mining project in Barangay Anonang here.

Ferdinand Morales, president of the Anonang Upland Farmers' Cooperative Inc. (AUFCI), said farmers had complained that the initial phase of the project had started without the affected communities' consent.

The proposed area is a former mining site abandoned in 1984 by Vulcan Industrial Mining Corp. (VIMC). Later studies by VIMC geologists, however, revealed that the mine tailings still contained a considerable amount of gold ore, said Morales, who is also president of Isabela Federation of Upland Farmers.

The VIMC, after about three years of large-scale mining operations, was forced to shut down due to the depletion of gold deposits in the area and management problems.

The new project owner, businessman Jose Jocson, has started construction of its mining and merging plants and renovation of offices at the former VIMC site in Sitio Singking here.

Workers at the site, Morales said, claimed that the company would not need a new mining permit as the project financiers had supposedly leased the mining license previously granted to VIMC.

"We believe, however, that since it's a new project, the company should apply for a new permit. As such, it's but proper that we, as affected farmers, should have been consulted," Morales said.

He said under the new plan, the company would dig up the dried-up mine tailings and treat it with flotation chemicals, usually cyanide, to extract the remaining gold deposits.

But Jocson, in a telephone interview, insisted that his company has not started actual mining operations, but admitted that their small-scale mining application is pending before the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB).

He, however, admitted that they had started renovating former VIMC structures.

"We are a legitimate company. All we want is to be able to provide employment to the people of Anonang. We are also willing to pay all tax obligations to the government," he said.

He said his company owned the mining permit, which was leased by VIMC.

Farmers said they feared that the mining operation would contaminate the Diadi River, a main source of irrigation of rice, corn and vegetable farms in Anonang and nearby barangays.

The river is also a major tributary that supplies water to Santiago City and its nearby towns.

Morales said the company has not submitted any application to the barangay and municipal governments.

GUARDED MOMENT RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The barrel of the gun sticks out amid a cultural performance by dancers during the Sambukoan Festival held at the Mati Cultural Sports Complex, betraying a tense situation amid a festive atmosphere.

US to send 28 jets to war games

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The United States Marine Corps is sending over at least 28 warplanes to take part in the 15-day Philippine-US military joining training exercise in Luzon which starts on Nov. 3, the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom) said Sunday.

The air contingent for "Talon Vision" is the second largest under the Visiting Forces Agreement after last year's Balikatan joint exercise featured 39 aircraft, including F-18 attack planes.

Talon Vision, held for the second time in the country, is an air and ground assault training, VFACom Executive Director Amado Valdez said.

The USMC, fielding 897 troops, is also bringing in 27 ground and assault vehicles.

Participants from the Philippine Air Force, Army and Marines would number 778 personnel. This contingent has at least 10 aircraft and 17 ground assault vehicles for the training at Clark, the Philippine Air Force's Crow Valley military reservation in Capas, Tarlac, and at the Army base at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

The exercises are part of the continuous joint training held under the VFA.

Talon Vision's large aircraft contingent has stirred apprehensions and worry among local officials of communities around Clark.

In May last year, during Balikatan 02-2, the VFACom ordered aircraft flying overhead to increase their altitudes following complaints from residents of noise and the risks posed by low-flying airplanes.

Alternate routes for approaches and departures of aircraft were also revised. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Panay Army spokesman says terror suspects helping NPA rebs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Two explosives experts with links to the terror group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) are reportedly training communist rebels on Panay Island, an Army spokesman here said.

Quoting intelligence reports, Maj. Oscar Lasangue, spokesperson of the Army's Task Force Panay (TFP), said the two suspects arrived in April from Mindanao via Negros Island. TFP is in-charge of counterinsurgency operations on Panay Island.

He alleged that the two bomb experts belonged to the Tausug tribe and were either members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). "These groups have links with (JI)," said Lasangue.

The Army spokesman said the two suspects were able to enter Panay Island when they eluded government troopers who tried to intercept them in the place where they were expected to dock. Lasangue refused to disclose the area.

He said the two suspects whom he identified only as "Abdul" and "Osman" were last monitored in northern Panay but government troops are still determining where they are exactly.

Lasangue said the two suspected JI members were fetched by a certain "Teray," allegedly the wife of a member of the executive committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines on Panay Island. This "Teray" allegedly heads an organization called "Creed," which Lasangue said is a "front organization" of communist rebels.

But the Army spokesperson could not give details about the organization except that it is "religious."

"We are intensifying our intelligence operations to pinpoint and apprehend these two JI members," Lasangue said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), however, rebuked Lasangue for continuously linking legal organizations with underground organizations and terrorist groups to terrorism.

"The *chismis* (gossips) in the guise of intelligence reports are aimed to discredit legitimate operations and the existence of legal organizations and activists so they can become fair targets of combat and police operations by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and PNP (Philippine National Police) units," said Bayan-Panay chair Jeffrey Celiz.

Food feasts to liven up trips to Subic ecozone

FOOD festivals are what visitors, residents and investors at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority could expect once a month, a project envisioned to promote solidarity among Subic residents and investors.

A SAMPLING of what's in store for Subic visitors at the paella festival. PHOTO FROM SBMA

Festival organizer Gabby La O said the food festival that began on Oct. 19 with the "Battle of the Paellas con un poco de lechon, pescano y salpicao," should be a way of life in the area.

SMBA Chair Felicito Payumo showed his support with his presence during the first festival held at the El Kabayo Riding Stables Clubhouse.

Featured were the paellas prepared by culinary experts like Ana Marcos, Ike Lopez, the Blue Mountain Café, and the Spanish Gate & Resto. The event was complimented by the first of a series of horse and rider exhibitions.

La O said various nationalities banded together "to push for a win-win situation for all."

Italian cuisine and culture will be featured in Nov. 21 in the "Battle of the Pizzas, Pastas, Affetati, Formaggi e Vino," which will also kick off Subic's Karakoa Annual Festival.

In December, La O said it will be Paskong Pilipino Festival and it is expected to draw competition in the battle of the *adobos*, *pansit*, crispy pata, etc.

January 2004 will see the battle of the Asians and in February, the battle of the Chinese food.

The festivals will be held in El Kabayo, which is owned by La O.

DPWH execs back beleaguered chief

PUBLIC works officials, bureau directors, regional directors, assistants and engineers yesterday expressed support for their beleaguered boss, Secretary Florante Soriquez.

The officials sent open letters to President Macapagal-Arroyo to urge her to retain Soriquez, who was charged with graft for a project completed when he was not yet in the department.

Among the signatories were Undersecretaries Bashir Rasuman and Antonio Inocentes, assistant secretaries Manuel Agyao, Macamed Raki-in Sr., Rafael Yabut and Raul Asis, directors Danilo Manalang, Clarita Bancionito, Virgilio Arpafo, Antonio Molano Jr., Luisito Visorde, Linda Templo, Elizabeth Yap, Leonora Cuenca and dozens of other officials.

ANTIQUE LIBERALS LP PHOTO

New members of the Liberal Party in Antique province take their oaths before LP president Rep. Florencio Abad and executive vice president Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. The new LP recruits are (from left) provincial board members Silvestre Untaran Jr., Eric Otayde, Julito Osunero and Jaeson Mande.

Subanens raise high hopes for land title

OROQUIETA CITY—Almost a decade after seeking recognition of their ancestral domain rights, it appears the indigenous Subanen people in Misamis Occidental are about to win a title to one of their 12 territorial claims.

While Subanen leaders considered this a "welcome development in the long and arduous struggle to gain recognition and respect for our rights," they still expressed guarded optimism.

Activities are being undertaken to delineate the expanse covered by a particular ancestral domain claim in this city's hinterlands covering about 6,600 hectares. Actual ground survey is expected by December.

And the issuance of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), the first of 12, could come "the earliest by February next year," said Matadong Arsenio Samson Jr., administrative officer of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) here.

Under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) of 1997, the legal framework governing ancestral domain claims today, delineation is among the important steps leading to the issuance of a CADT.

As an instrument, CADT embodies the formal recognition by the state of an indigenous people's right over territories.

CADTs are required to be registered before the Register of Deeds.

Currently, there are seven approved ancestral domain claims out of 12 applications filed by the Subanen tribe but the boundaries of all these have not been delineated.

Subanen leader Edwin Ending said while setting a timetable for the issuance of the CADT was welcome, more claims should be processed and soon.

While the NCIP is above its target of processed CADT applications, the handing over of titles has been very slow despite a presidential commitment.

Beginning in 1994, the Subanen tribe has filed 12 ancestral domain claims covering some 100,000 hectares that cuts across the 14 towns and three cities of the province. Of these, only seven got government nod, while five are pending. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Davide declares war

From page A1

Romeo Callejo, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Morales, Artemio Panganiban, Reynato Puno, Antonio Carpio and Jose Vitug.

Presbiterio Velasco Jr., Supreme Court administrator, said the presence of the President was a clear show of support for the Chief Justice, but three senators scoffed at the President's gesture.

Sen Joker Arroyo said Ms Macapagal attended the Mass to "make up" for what she had done. Arroyo earlier accused the President of colluding with Cojuangco to bring forth the impeachment complaint against Davide in the House of Representatives.

"It's curative . . . so that she can claim that she's not part of it," Arroyo told reporters. He was referring to his earlier statement that the President had conspired with Cojuangco to ensure that her Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and Cojuangco's NPC remained united for the 2004 polls. "Why would she go out of her way to go there?"

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III wondered why Ms Macapagal went to the Supreme Court when she had been quoted as saying that she would not intervene in the impeachment case.

Deeply moved

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he found Ms Macapagal's presence at the Mass "improper" because "the issue has been acquiring some emotional content and the duty of leaders is to calm the fears down."

Davide said he was "deeply moved" by the gathering.

"The people are now gathering together not to protect me but to grieve the possibility of the destruction of our political institutions," he said. "Involved here is not the Chief Justice but the entire judiciary itself."

Court employees chanted "Davide! Davide!" as he escorted Ms Macapagal out of the Supreme Court gates after the Mass.

The fences that line both sides of Padre Faura Street, between Taft Avenue and Orosa Street, were covered with placards bearing the message "Save Davide, Save the Judiciary, Save the Country."

"I would say that this is the best time in my life because this is a challenge," Davide said. "Sometimes you have to cry but I do cry not for myself but for the people that are supporting us."

Davide said he was not hiring lawyers to defend him in the impeachment trial since they had volunteered their services to him. "It is not to defend me. But to defend the institution, to defend our democracy, to defend our country."

Datumanong said the people should pray so that "the worst result of the apparent standoff between Congress and the Supreme Court will not happen."

"A constitutional crisis will not be good for our country. Let us hope that this will be resolved in a way that is beneficial for all," Datumanong said.

Solution

Davide said Congress should be the first to solve the constitutional crisis, which it created. "I'm sure solutions are within their grasp," he said.

In his homily, Father Reyes said, "I have no fear, justice. I am sure you can defend yourself," prompting the crowd to applaud and cheer for Davide.

The Mass was supposed to be conducted on Padre Faura Street, where Reyes was seen jogging earlier to show his support for Davide.

But the Supreme Court opened its gates to the running priest and the rest of Davide's supporters before the Mass was set to begin at 8:30. Reyes then changed into his habit.

Employees of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Department of Justice and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, led by its president Jose Cadiz, attended the Mass, most of them were wearing black. Others tied black ribbons around their arms.

The priest said the second impeachment complaint filed this year against Davide was initiated by people who might have been irked by the Supreme Court's recent rulings.

Reyes put a smile on Davide's face when he called the Chief Justice a good man. "Keep up the good work," Reyes said, drawing applause once again from court employees.

A portion of Padre Faura Street, from Taft Avenue to Maria Orosa Street, was closed to traffic from early morning until the end of the Mass at about 9:30 a.m. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Win-win solution eludes GMA, JDV

From page A1

unprecedented act of intervention. Ms Macapagal said it was "not out of line" for her to "seek a principled solution" because the supreme welfare of the people was at stake.

She said she "consulted" with Davide, De Venecia and San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., the founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Ms Macapagal said she did not know where her "overtures will lead" but that she knew that representatives of the three leaders had met over the weekend to "try to find a common ground."

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, who was present in the negotiations, said the collapse of the talks was mainly due to the hardline position taken by the high court.

"It seems that the expected concessions (from the tribunal) are not forthcoming," Gonzalez said.

Earlier in the day, NPC leader Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. laid down two conditions for a settlement: for the Supreme Court to recognize the oversight power of Congress in connection with government expenditures, and for the tribunal to open its financial books, particularly on the Judiciary Development Fund.

"It looks like a stalemate," Gonzalez said.

Press briefing

Ms Macapagal was originally set to hold a press conference at the SC after attending the 8:30 a.m. Mass, but the plan was scrapped.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal realized that the high court was "not the proper venue."

Ms Macapagal instead read her statement upon arriving at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board building in Quezon City where she held an emergency meeting with the Cabinet. *(Photo on Page A2.)*

During the Cabinet meeting, the President and the officials conducted a closed-door session to discuss the crisis.

In her statement, Ms Macapagal said: "Last Friday, I assured the nation and the world that we are not in the midst of a constitutional crisis. As Chief Executive of the Philippines, I have been working to execute that assurance according to my best lights."

She said there must be peace among "our great institutions if there is to be peace in our democratic society."

"Without going into the merits of the impeachment case, I consulted with the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House and Mr. Eduardo Cojuangco about the controversy," the President said.

THIS time running priest Fr. Robert Reyes runs for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. VAL HANDUMON

ANTI-DAVIDE protesters hold a separate rally at the Batasan to support the impeachment case. JOAN BONDOC

"While the executive may not interfere in an issue involving co-equal branches of government, it is not out of line for the presidency to seek a principled solution. This does not involve deals with anyone or any vested interest. I do this with pure and patriotic intentions. I have only the interest of national unity and reconciliation at heart," she said.

When the supreme welfare of the people is involved, the "three great powers of our republican democracy must have a congruence of faith and action," she said.

Negotiations

"I went to Mass at the Supreme Court today to pray that all will end well and to pray that God will give us the wisdom to be constructive, fair and ever loyal to the flag," she said.

In yesterday's talks, De Venecia was assisted by Gonzalez and Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur).

The two principal authors of the second impeachment complaint against Davide, Teodoro and Rep. Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella, represented the pro-impeachment lawmakers.

Rep. Francis Escudero, senior deputy House majority leader and NPC spokesperson, served as the NPC's liaison man with De Venecia.

Gonzalez noted that Fuentebella had wanted the high court to furnish the House with vouchers for JDF expenditures. This demand was too stiff, he said.

"Both sides would refuse to budge," Gonzalez said.

The talks were suspended after they bogged down. The representatives will meet again at 2 p.m. today.

Last night, Teodoro said the pro-impeachment congressmen would push for the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment today.

When asked about congressmen who withdrew their signatures, Teodoro said the number of congressmen supporting the complaint stood at 82—six more than the 76 required.

"As far as the transmittal is concerned, the door is closed," said Teodoro, meaning their number was enough to push for a transmittal today.

Cebuano leaders

Teodoro simply shrugged his shoulders when asked whether they will no longer entertain settlement as an option.

"We've impressed upon Speaker De Venecia the need to transmit the Articles," Teodoro said. "He has to transmit as soon as possible."

Bunye said Ms Macapagal worked for three successive days since Thursday to avert a constitutional crisis.

He said the President called up Cojuangco on Thursday in the presence of four Cebuano leaders "sympathetic to Davide."

"The discussions were very general," Bunye said. "The President just asked, requested, the ambassador to get in touch with his people in the House."

Bunye later said Ms Macapagal asked Cojuangco to "stop" the impeachment process.

He said the President did not want to intervene but moved after the Cebuano leaders came to ask her to step in. He said it was then that the President called up Cojuangco in the presence of the Cebuano leaders, which included Representatives Eduardo Gullas, Ace Durano and Simeon Kintanar. Durano had signed the second complaint.

Bunye said that upon Ms Macapagal's urging, Davide, Cojuangco and De Venecia nominated their representatives to "conciliation meetings" that took place on three successive days, from Thursday to Saturday evening.

Bunye said SC Administrator Presbiterio Velasco Jr. represented Davide while Rep. Francis Escudero represented the NPC in the meetings. He said Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, also attended the meeting but he did not know who Andaya was representing.

Bunye took pains to explain why Ms Macapagal appeared to have lied on Friday when she told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines that she was not going to interfere in the issue between co-equal branches of government.

"At that particular time, negotiations were ongoing and we also felt ... I have to make a confession because as of Thursday I knew what was going on but we could not divulge what was taking place because of the ongoing negotiations," he said.

When asked if she intervened to repay Davide for swearing her as President during the Edsa II revolt, Bunye said: "I think it's very clear from the statement of the President that she wants to avert a constitutional crisis."

Talking to reporters while the Cabinet was meeting, Bunye said: "I think without any initiative on the part of the President, we will probably have a deadlock. And the reason she stated is that she's looking at the national interest. This means unity and reconciliation."

Presidential Legislative Adviser Gabriel Claudio said Ms Macapagal was "very instrumental" in initiating the process of dialogue between the contending parties.

He declined to say what the win-win solution was, however.

SC justices

The INQUIRER has also learned that three senior justices of the Supreme Court met with De Venecia and Teodoro.

The Speaker first met with Justice Josue Bellosillo on Friday. The two met again yesterday morning in a Makati hotel, with Teodoro and Justices Reynato Puno and Jose Vitug.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, who presided over an opposition caucus to discuss the proposed settlement, was unsatisfied.

Padilla said 15 opposition members present in the caucus refused to withdraw their signatures and did not accept De Venecia's a compromise with Davide.

INQUIRER sources said that after the meeting, Teodoro proceeded to Fuentebella's house in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, where 38 other congressmen who signed the impeachment case were waiting.

In the Senate, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara said the chamber might end up not convening as an impeachment court, if the House leadership is able to work out a compromise with congressmen behind Davide's impeachment complaint.

Angara said that Senate President Franklin Drilon told senators in yesterday's Senate caucus that the compromise would see the House voting to transmit the articles of impeachment against Davide to the Senate "but at the same time they may move to have it withdrawn, during the last remaining sessions of Congress."

"(This is) on the understanding that the root cause of the impeachment, which is the rejection by the Chief of Justice to submit the books of account of the JDF to examination and audit will now be submitted for that purpose and that would already meet the expectations and demands for both sides," Angara told reporters.

He surmised that the compromise would see that the House has proven that the JDF as well as its administrator, Davide, "is not beyond accountability."

On the other hand, Angara said the compromise would also prove that the "discretion and flexibility on how the fund should be used is left to (Davide's) good judgment, that this is the Supreme Court's right to fiscal autonomy." *With reports from Cynthia Balana, Christine Avendaño; Reuters, AP, AFP*

Cory leads pro-Davide rally at House

From page A1

economy, which she said "is still suffering from the dire consequences of the (failed July 27) Oakwood mutiny."

"Another crisis will not only aggravate the problems of our people, it may also undermine our fragile democracy," said Aquino, who momentarily shed her familiar yellow attire and instead showed up in black, the day's color of protest for the pro-Davide groups.

After reading a prepared statement, Aquino led the gathering in praying the Rosary.

Allowed by the House security to put up a sound system on the main driveway fronting the Session Hall building, the supporters of Davide included nuns, seminarians, lawyers, students, court employees, and the well-heeled set from the posh Makati villages.

Some of their banners read: "Save Davide, Save the Judiciary, Save the Country," and "Davide, you are our hero."

Aquino began her prepared statement by noting that yesterday was the first time since her presidency that she set foot on the Batasan complex.

She said she came to the Batasan complex with an "urgent purpose: to express my solidarity with all legislators who oppose the impeachment complaint against the Honorable Chief Justice."

Other prominent speakers who defended Davide include former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Aguino's Health Secretary Alfredo Bengson and Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Malacañang sent two representatives, one of them the President's youngest child Dato who did not speak before the crowd and declined media interviews. The emcee Cecille Guidote-Alvarez acknowledged him as representing the First Family.

The other, Percival Chavez, chair of the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor, said Davide was the only Chief Justice who "opened dialogues" between the Judiciary and the urban poor sector.

Just three months ago, he recalled, Davide issued a memo stating that the commission be notified of any court-ordered demolition of squatter colonies.

Presidential aspirant Raul Roco and his Aksyon Demokratiko party supporters were the first to arrive at the assembly site.

Speaking before Aquino's arrival, Roco rapped the congressmen pushing the impeachment complaint for insisting on their own interpretation of the constitutional limit on the number of times an impeachment complaint against the same person within a year.

While Aquino chose not to touch on legal matters in her statement, almost all the speakers reiterated that Davide's impeachment last week was unconstitutional, politically motivated, and railroaded in violation of Charter provisions.

One speaker raised the allegation that each congressman who endorsed the complaint received P5 million as a reward.

But the more scathing remarks against the congressmen came from Ateneo De Manila president, Father Bienvenido Nebres, who sent from the United States an emailed message read aloud by a representative.

"To the congressmen who signed the impeachment letter we express our profound outrage," the Jesuit priest said. "You have only dishonored yourselves. By this act you have added your names to the annals of infamy in the history of the House of Representatives."

Nebres said Davide "stands as a bulwark of truth, integrity and courage in a time when we see only expediency and narrow interests in so many of our other leaders."

From the UP College of Law, of which Davide is an alumni, Marwil Llasos, denounced the impeachment endorsers as "hypocrites" who supposedly demand transparency from Davide while their own accountability in spending pork barrel remains highly suspect.

Among the represented groups in the rally were Couples for Christ, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Philippine Bar Association, the Ateneo and De La Salle communities, Daughters of St. Paul, Knights of Columbus, Edsa Shrine Community, Philippine Association of Law Schools, and Kalampagin ang Konsyensang Kinakalawang.

Even as the praying crowd filled the main driveway and spilled over the lawn fronting the Plenary Hall building, the House's internal security force—a Special Forces unit of the Philippine National Police—still saw it best to surround the rally with anti-riot teams.

A fire truck to deter possible rioters was also put on standby.

Veteran House reporters noted that such mass actions were not allowed to be this close during the November 2000 impeachment proceedings against then President Joseph Estrada.

To match the pro-Davide rally, a smaller group composed of settlers from nearby poor communities were assembled at the Batasan gates by Arnold Obina, an organizer identified with Estrada, for their own rally pushing for Davide's ouster.

The anti-Davide group calling itself the People's Alliance for Truth and Justice initially engaged in a shouting match with the advance party of the pro-Davide camp at the gate.

Mouthing the familiar rich-versus-poor line, many complained to reporters over the apparent bias of House security officials when only the pro-Davide groups were allowed to enter the Batasan grounds.

In the middle of Aquno's rally, though, the PNP eventually allowed the anti-Davide protesters —many in slippers, dusters, and *sando*—to enter the complex sans their placards and streamers so they could watch yesterday's House deliberations on the issue.

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FOREIGN PIRATES
Video Regulatory Board chair Ramon Revilla Jr. (right) accompanied by Customs commissioner Antonio Bernardo (center) examine some of the 900,000 pirated video discs worth P60-million that were smuggled into the country from Malaysia. ROGER MARGALLO

Drivers score in Caloocan

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

PUTTING more pressure on Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, jeepney drivers won a concession in their battle over the closure of a part of the Bonifacio Monument Circle.

In their latest protest action at City Hall, more than 50 drivers forced Malonzo to declare Caimito Road a one-way street.

The mayor agreed to the proposal, saying they had already thought of it before.

Beginning today, Malonzo told the INQUIRER, Caimito Road would be one-way.

With the new route, jeepneys from Malabon and Navotas going to Monumento would turn left to Caimito Road, exit to MacArthur Highway then proceed to Monumento.

Malonzo said this would decongest Samson Road.

The drivers arrived at City Hall at 12:30 p.m. Malonzo met with the group's leaders minutes later.

Jeepney drivers have been protesting the closure of a stretch of Monumento Circle as part of Malonzo's historical walk project.

Vehicles from Samson Road or J.P. Rizal going to MacArthur Highway now have to take a left at Gen. Tinio Street along Edsa.

PNP promises safe trip for All Souls Day travelers

By Tina Santos

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is dead serious in ensuring the safety of people who will troop to the provinces for the long All Souls Day weekend.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco yesterday assured motorists and commuters of smooth travel within Metro Manila with the deployment of all available policemen from the five police districts to manage traffic and guard against crime on the road.

He said traffic operatives, as well as mobile security patrols, would assist motorists along major thoroughfares and highways leading to and from cemeteries in the metropolis.

The NCRPO chief gave the assurance that security preparations were also being set in place in all bus terminals, airports and seaports for the anticipated exodus of people to the provinces.

"The safety of the riding public must be prioritized at all times and the citizens are assured that they will not be preyed on by criminals. Uniformed and non-uniformed personnel will be deployed at bus stations to secure the volume of passengers bound for provinces," Velasco said.

But he advised the public to take extra precaution by coordinating with their barangay officials for the conduct of more patrols around their homes should they leave their houses unattended.

Public assistance centers at cemeteries will also be set up to assist cemetery-goers, he added. Investigators will be on hand to look into possible petty crimes.

To thwart any form of sabotage, security will also be tightened around public communication facilities, government buildings and other vital installations.

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METRO BRIEFS

Caught

SUSPECTED robber Bernardo Mardina picked on the wrong taxi driver. Benigno Loveras of Caloocan fought off Mardina, 24, of Pasig City, after the suspect tried to rob him on Julia Vargas Street, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City at 1 a.m. yesterday. Mardina got a beating from the driver. But he managed to stab Loveras in the neck and fled. Another taxi driver saw what was going on and cornered the suspect. Mardina got beaten up some more before he was turned over to the police. *Luige del Puerto*

Bludgeoned

ANGEL Villanueva, a former army captain, yesterday was bludgeoned to death by the husband of his lover in a rented Mandaluyong apartment. In a fit of jealousy, Francisco Orquioa, 41, of Antipolo City, used a softdrink bottle, to hit the head of Villanueva, 55, of Mandaluyong, police said. PO2 Rico Sta. Maria said Orquioa went to Villanueva's home at around 6 a.m. and found his wife in bed with the former officer. *Luige del Puerto*

Robbed

PEOPLE'S Tonight reporter Renato Quilicol, 38, lost his mobile phone to a robber at dawn Sunday in Pasig City. Quilicol told police that he was on his way home in a jeepney when a man poked a knife at him and took his P15,000 mobile phone. The man got down on Shaw Boulevard and fled. *Luige del Puerto*

Fearless forecast: FPJ not running

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

MY HUMBLE but fearless forecast is Fernando Poe Jr. will not run for president.

FPJ is much too shy and too private a person to aspire for the highest position of the land, where he will be embroiled in controversies.

Right now, when he still hasn't announced his candidacy, a lot of adverse stories about him are already coming out. The moment he says he will run, more bad stories will fly thick and fast.

* * *

"*Ayaw po ni Kuya Ronnie* (FPJ's nickname) *ang mga kontrobersiya*, Kuya Mon (Ronnie doesn't want his name dragged into controversies)," a movie scribe who's close to him told me.

Ronnie Poe is so well loved by movie reporters that they gloss over his weaknesses. They don't write about FPJ's shortcomings.

I can understand why movie reporters overlook his shortcomings. Depending on their age, FPJ is a father or brother to them. A friend who can be relied on in times of need.

* * *

Generosity is one of FPJ's virtues. He's generous to both friends and strangers.

Ask Danny Devnani, an Indian who's a former friend of deposed President Erap, who ran the club in San Juan that FPJ and Erap frequented when he was still Vice President.

Devnani says he knows FPJ to be very, very generous. The guest relations officers (GROs) of the club always looked forward to being asked to sit with him whenever FPJ was around.

* * *

FPJ would ask the club's 10 GROs to sit with him at his table and talk with him from 8 or 9 p.m. until noon the following day.

And then, Devnani says, FPJ would tip the GROs—as well as the male waiters, bartender and kitchen helpers—from P10,000 to P15,000 each.

But the following night, almost all the club employees would be absent because they would be catching up on sleep for being awake until noon that day.

That's FPJ par excellence.

* * *

Now, how was FPJ's dealings with other customers, I asked Devnani.

"Oh, Mon, he has a terrible temper. He doesn't want noise coming from other tables if he's drinking," the Indian says.

One time, Devnani says, he and Eli Gardiner were having a crap game of balut when FPJ, who was at the other table, told them to stop because he didn't like the noise created by the dice being rolled on the table.

* * *

Devnani says he approached FPJ and asked that they be allowed to continue with their game but that they would try to lessen their noise.

But because of the excitement, they forgot about their promise to FPJ and became noisy again, the erstwhile club Indian manager says.

"FPJ became mad, approached our table and threatened to shoot us if we didn't stop our dice game at once," Devnani says.

* * *

Devnani seems to know some of FPJ's peculiarities as a customer, among which was that he didn't want anybody else inside the comfort room when he was using it.

Once, the Indian says, actor Bong Revilla entered the comfort room when FPJ was urinating.

FPJ and Bong Revilla nearly came to blows because of that, Devnani says.

"*Gusto niya walang tao kapag siya ay umiihi* (He doesn't want another man inside the comfort room when he's urinating)," says the Indian.

I ask why and Devnani replies: "*Baka ayaw niya makita ang kanyang ari* (Perhaps he didn't want anybody to see his sex organ)."

* * *

Hmmmmm!

Many years ago, a gay movie columnist wrote that FPJ had a small *patotoy*.

A few days later, a drunken FPJ chanced upon the movie scribe.

He beat up the scribe and when the hapless guy fell down, Ronnie Poe reportedly urinated on him.

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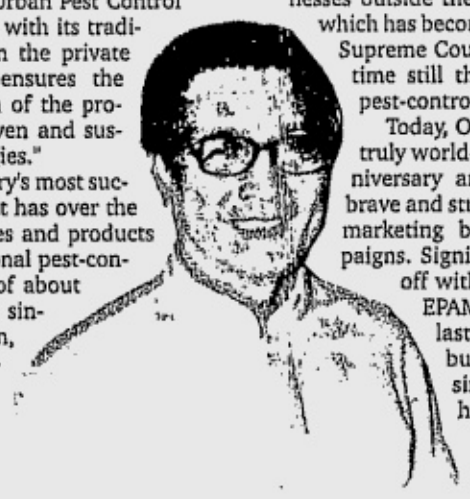
MAPECON CELEBRATES ITS 42nd ANNIVERSARY WITH INTENSIFIED E.P.A.M.P.

By Jorge Sabino

SEPTEMBER is the United Nations' environmentalists' "Clean Up The World Month," envisioned to, among others, protect the citizenry from pest-transmitted killer diseases. But beyond September, throughout the year, there's the "EPAMP" or the Environmental Pest Abatement Maintenance Program, a nationwide campaign to rid public places of pests being implemented by the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) which, in cooperation with its traditional and mandated partner in the private sector, MAPECON Phils.,Inc., ensures the proper and optimum utilization of the project's "modern, indigenous, proven and sustainable solution's and technologies."

MAPECON is one of the country's most successful Filipino corporations as it has over the years outclassed the technologies and products of the world's biggest multinational pest-control firms. With only a capital of about four hundred pesos, and only a single-proprietorship outfit then, MAPECON was founded on October 28, 1961, by now multi-awarded Filipino inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr.



Multi-awarded Filipino inventor and entrepreneur Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr., Founder of MAPECON Phils., philanthropist and outstanding Constitutional Convention delegate from Negros Oriental.

Today, MAPECON is a multimillion-peso corporation with a glossy catalog that showcases a uniquely creative variety of award-winning diversified products, which include Activated Carbon; Bioactivated Carbon (Bio-Act); "Catrus Fruits" (decorative items that look like real fruits and contain Activated Carbon that adsorbs odor and purifies the air); Fruitfly Catcher; Bio-Act Mask (anti-pollution face mask that could easily serve as a most powerful anti-SARS tool in the most dangerous zones); Green Charcoal, award-winning solid fuel recycled from biodegradable wastes, which has been institutionalized in RA 9003 or Solid Waste Management Law; and the GCJC Hydrogenated Stoves, using Green Charcoal as a feasible replacement for the cancer-causing LPG cooking in homes and restaurants; and many others.

The efficacy, environment-friendliness, and staying power of MAPECON's Filipino technologies and products in a market that teems with giant multinational pest controllers have been amazing, as MAPECON, for decades, withstood the most elaborate marketing blitzes and smear campaigns from the giant competitors and their cohorts in government committees and agencies, such as the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) which reportedly harassed MAPECON for more than 20 years. Court records show, however, that MAPECON has already won against the FPA with a court decision that places MAPECON and all its businesses outside the jurisdiction of the FPA and which has become Final and Executory at the Supreme Court. MAPECON emerged each time still the undefeated leader in the pest-control business.

Today, October 28, 2003, MAPECON, truly world-class, celebrates its 42nd Anniversary and vows to continue to be brave and strong against the sophisticated marketing blitzes and the smear campaigns. Significantly, its celebration takes off with an intensified thrust of the EPAMP, destined to leave behind a lasting legacy, not only for itself but also for the government's sincerity in the area of public health

The success and legacy of a government administration are measured, not only in how good it has been in combating with guns society's most dangerous criminals and rebels, but to an often unseen pervasive extent, also in how good it has been in intelligently keeping at bay the pests - silent killers - that are carriers of deadly diseases, such as the Dengue Fever, SARS, Japanese Encephalitis, Leptospirosis, to mention a few.

These pests - mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, rats, among others - and improper disposal of garbage, which inevitably becomes breeding places of pests, have killed more people than all the wars combined. Add to that the excessive use of dangerous imported pesticides that are reportedly being dumped in the Philippines from foreign countries (where many of the pesticides being used in the Philippines today have already been banned for being harmful to humans and the environment), which have become part of the problem - part of the killers - and not of the solutions, especially in the urban areas.

The Philippines imports about five billion pesos' worth of pesticides every year. MAPECON's thrust has always been to replace foreign pesticides with tested effective and safe Filipino inventions and innovations that are made from indigenous materials, which are abundant in the Philippines, to reduce the destructive dollar drain and generate jobs for Filipinos, among others. MAPECON alone has 38 Patens and 9 Patent-Pendings.

In 1997, Pres. Fidel V. Ramos signed Presidential Proclamation No. 990, "Declaring the Fourth Week of September of Every Year as the National Urban Pest Control Week," as part of the "Clean Up The World Month." In this significant executive move, the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) was organized under the Office of the President of the Philippines to protect public health and solidly prevent the occurrence of epidemics by means of a tested set of pest-control and recycling methods called "MIPSS" (Modern, Indigenous, Proven and Sustainable Solutions) which the NCUPC would implement nationwide in cooperation with a reputable pest-control outfit.

On the occasion of the just-concluded National Urban Pest Control Week, now on its seventh year, under the aegis of the NCUPC, the sole agency mandated to implement the event by the aforementioned Presidential Proclamation, with MAPECON Phils., pursuant to Department of Health (DOH) Circular No. 155, S-75, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo commended the NCUPC for its "vital contributions in ensuring the health and quality of life for Filipinos through urban pest control" and its "commitment to preparedness and disease prevention."

"Better health and improved quality of life are indications that we are on track in winning the war against poverty and achieving lasting peace and progress in the entire land," Pres. Arroyo said. "I urge all stakeholders to strongly support our urban pest control programs," the President stressed.

In line with Malacañang's thrust, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-186, signed by DILG Secretary Joey Lina last September 3, encouraging all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors, and others concerned to include pest abatement maintenance in their Local Development Plans or Local Investment Plans and to conduct Information and Education campaigns on pest control.

Even Jaime Cardinal Sin hailed the awareness drive on pest control as "timely and important."

"We cannot attain progress and development if we are not a healthy nation," Cardinal Sin explained. "It is for this reason that the Church cooperates with organizations like the National Committee on Urban Pest Control. It is my prayer that our countrymen may heed their call."

The NCUPC is currently carrying out an exclusive, tested and government-mandated franchise system of the EPAMP, which aims to put in place nationwide continuing and practical pest-control mechanisms in public places, such as canals, drainage networks, vacant lots and other such breeding areas of pests, starting at the Barangay level. Generally, pests invade homes from the outside. EPAMP's pilot area, has successfully gotten off the ground at Manila's Barangay 726, Zone 79, District V, under EPAMP Coordinator Kagawad Gilbert Estipona.

Beyond September, beyond the big words from top leaders, ordinary people should realize the life-giving importance of the EPAMP, because, at the end of the day, it is a reality that crusades like the EPAMP could easily fall apart from lack of participation of the ordinary citizens - especially at the Barangay level - the very people that the EPAMP has set out to protect from deadly pest-transmitted diseases.

"Love of country should win in the end," Catan concluded.

A MAPECON EPAMP Technician does the lonely job of spraying public places againsts the pests of killer diseases at Barangay 726, Zone 79, District V.

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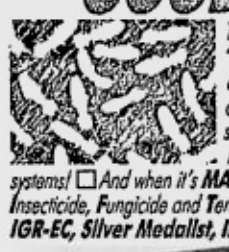

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Lawyer: Vicencio career in decline

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE CAREER of suspended Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio is on the decline and his supporters are "deceiving" themselves if they think the embattled mayor can run again for office, according to the chief of staff of acting Mayor Jayjay Yambao.

Lawyer Melvin Cuevas, Yambao's top aide, was reacting to the statement of some of Vicencio's supporters, who are urging the suspended mayor to throw in his hat yet again in the 2004 elections.

According to lawyer Reginal Jose, who represents Vicencio, they are "exploring all legal possibilities" to address the suspension Malacañang has slapped on Vicencio last week.

Jose yesterday cited a Supreme Court opinion included in a 1998 decision (Borja Jr. vs. Commission on Elections and Jose Capco) about mayors not fully serving a term by reason of suspension.

Jose told the INQUIRER that "theoretically, (Vicencio) can still run because, with the suspension, he has not finished a full term."

But Cuevas disagreed, saying that with the suspension, Vicencio's remaining seven months in his last term would be deemed completed.

"Otherwise all politicians will just have themselves suspended so they could extend their terms," Cuevas said.

Vicencio, now in his third term, has been served a third suspension order after Malacañang found him "guilty of abuse of authority" for paying P12.6 million without securing a certificate of appropriation from the city's chief accountant.

According to Yambao, the suspension order on Vicencio is a "triumph of justice."

"Our people (in Malabon) have long been waiting for that (suspension)," Yambao told the INQUIRER yesterday.

STUFF OF NIGHTMARES
A five-year-old boy looking for an appropriate mask to wear for a Halloween party in a toy store, may find more frightening stuff in the House of Representatives. RUDY ESPERAS

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Trinidad urges probe of Pasay firemen

By Christine Paita

PASAY Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad has asked Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. to order an investigation into the alleged misconduct of firemen who responded to a fire that razed more than a thousand houses in the city last week.

Trinidad said the Bureau of Fire Protection in Pasay City is under the DILG.

In a letter, Trinidad said that his office received reports that the firemen had acted irresponsibly when they left the fire scene after declaring that the fire was out at around 3:30 a.m. But at around 5 a.m., the fire inexplicably started again, this time spreading to four communities in the city, even crossing over to Makati.

Trinidad said the firemen apparently did not do all they could to control the fire.

"The firemen left after they declared 'fire out' at 2 a.m.," said Lynn Perez, employee of the Batangas Laguna Tayabas Bicol Bus Co., whose compound was destroyed in the fire. "Then we called them up because a fire had broken out at 3 a.m. They did not respond."

She added the firemen arrived only at 6 a.m., when the fire had already destroyed a large area.

In an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER, a Samantha Cuison alleged that some residents witnessed a fight between Pasay firemen and Chinese fire volunteers, which started when Pasay firemen allegedly refused the volunteers access to their water tank.

Pasay City fire officials could not be reached for comment.

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A21

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

PRO LEAGUE OVERHAUL

PBA wants more time to study Eala proposal

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association's board of governors yesterday deferred action on a proposed new format and calendar that would completely overhaul the structure of Asia's first play-for-pay league.

Citing the need for more time to study the proposal of commissioner Noli Eala, the board has scheduled another meeting on Nov. 14.

"This is a sensitive issue that should not be hastily deliberated on. The board had asked for another meeting because they want to get the reactions of their respective organizations," said Eala after the closed-door meeting that took almost five hours at the New World Hotel.

On the whole, Eala is proposing a single championship season from October to May to take the place of the usual February-December calendar where three conferences are held.

One of the governors' major concerns was how to maximize the salaries of the players should their teams get eliminated early in the proposed one-season championship format.

Under Eala's proposal, teams will compete in a division tournament before qualifying for the national championships that would take almost five and a half months to hold.

"The board's primary concern was the idle time of the players which would take more than five months," said Eala. "But then again, it's up to the board to decide on the issue," he added.

Sources said that, although teams treated Eala's bid with an open mind, some have expressed reservations over the proposed format.

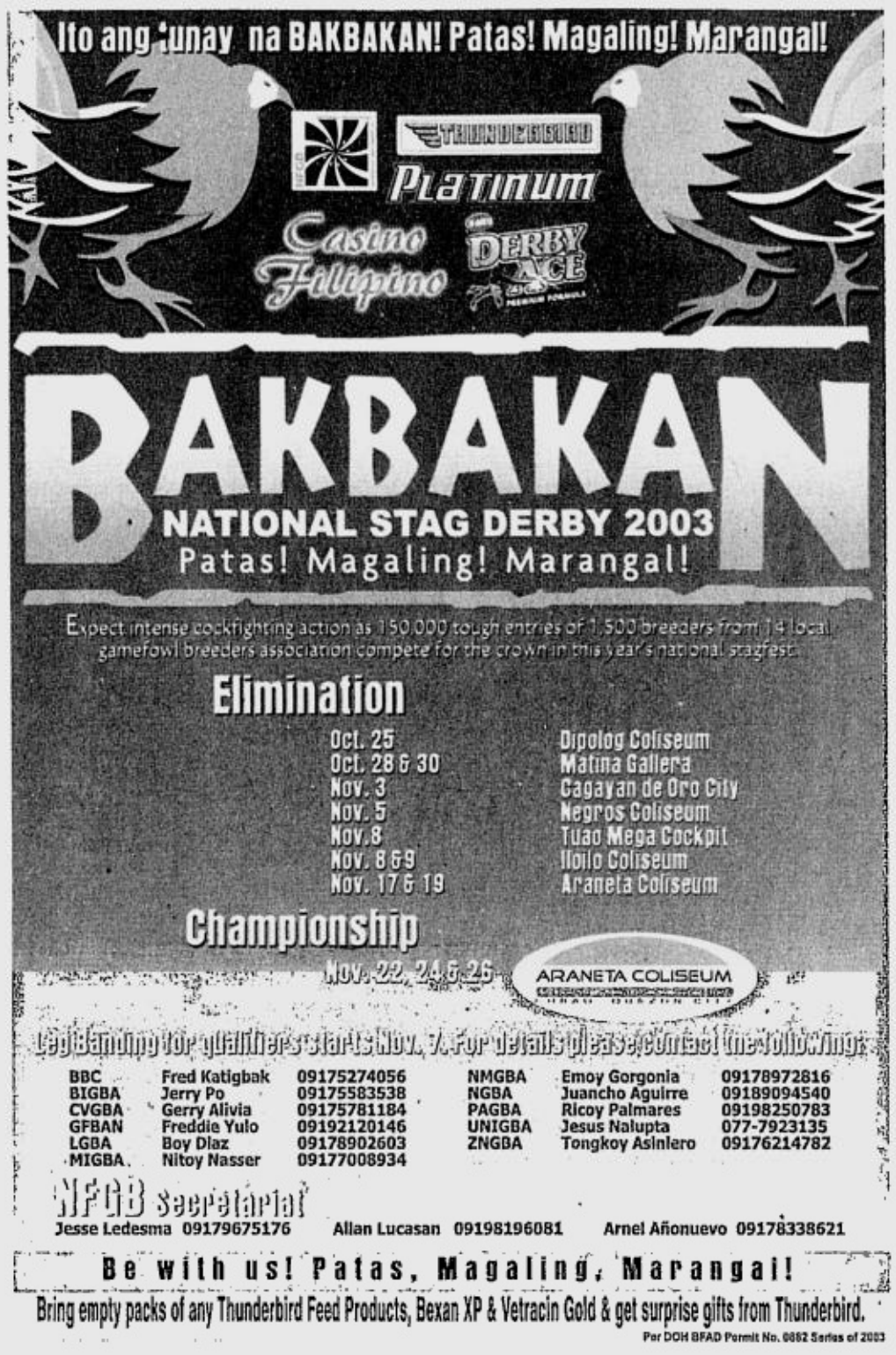
"I'm not confident that all my proposals will be accepted completely and implemented without amendments. I'm just hoping that they be considered and looked upon with an open mind," said Eala.

He added that there's a need to view the problem of the league in a different perspective and eliminate the out-of-the-box thinking to help the league.

Eala said one of the reasons behind his proposal was to improve the PBA's dwindling attendance.

Another was to synchronize the league's calendar with the Fiba so the PBA can compete and field its players not only in the Asian Games but in the Asian Basketball Confederation championships, and, hopefully, in the World Championship and Olympics.

'I did my part. I believe the collective experience and wisdom of the board will determine whether the proposal is appropriate and timely," said Eala.



Lions, Hawks advance

SAN BEDA and University of Manila pulled off impressive victories over separate opponents Sunday to complete the quarterfinal cast of the Unigames basketball tournament at the Orchard Golf and Country Club gym in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The SBC Lions blasted the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas five, 65-55, while the UM Hawks downed the St. Louis dribblers, 72-61, to finish 1-2 in bracket D.

In games pitting early quarterfinalists, St. Francis of Assisi trimmed DLSU-Manila, 92-86, to finish with a 5-0 card in bracket A while College of St. Benilde upended UAAP champion Far Eastern, 65-61, to complete a five-game sweep of bracket B.

University of the East and Adamson were fighting for top spot in bracket C at presstime.

Deutsche Post World Net
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Minda bets sustain strong drive

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Three boxers from Central Mindanao slugged their way to victory yesterday even as Northern Mindanao sustained its show of might on all fronts to remain at the helm of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Taking advantage of the absence of traditional powerhouse National Capital Region and the splitting of Southern Tagalog into two regions, Mindanao bets have finally taken the spotlight in the annual sportsfest among the country's elementary and high school athletes.

Central Mindanao was running second overall behind Northern Mindanao in the secondary level while it's Northern Mindanao, Davao, Central Mindanao and Zamboanga in that order in the elementary level.

The victorious boxers from North Cotabato boosted Central Mindanao's gold output to seven.

Swimming proved Northern Mindanao's lifeblood as it won five gold medals in both divisions for the day.

"This is the first time that we won 12 golds in the first two days," said Angelito Magdale, athletic manager of NM which has a total of 15 golds so far.

Noriel Nacionales overwhelmed Eastern Visayas' George Salva from the opening bell, forcing the referee to stop the fight after only 58 seconds in the mosquitoweight (38 kg)class.

That kicked off the explosive show by the North Cotabato boxers. Pinweight (45 kg) Fernando Lumacad decisioned Davao Region's Virnil Desabille, before paperweight (42 kg) Jill Lubaton outpointed Central Mindanao's Alberto Yap.

Davao fighters scored two golds in boxing, which was held in an open ring in the middle of the MCC, through Richie Bejec, who defeated Region 8's Gilbert Lompot in the powderweight (36 kg) class, and lightvacuumweight (39 kg) Daniel Philip Fuentes, who won over Rendon Togonon of Region 8.

Melindo Milan accounted for Northern Mindanao's lone gold by beating Cordillera's Victor Peking in the lightpaperweight (41 kg) division, while lightfly (48 kg) Jonas Jerusalem of Zamboanga Peninsula prevailed over Region 12's Jether Oliva.

Central Luzon and Bicol Region scored two victories each in secondary archery. Fidelberto Rome won the 30m distance and the 50m and 30m standard for Region 3. Ruby Febres of Region 5 duplicated the feat in the girls' division.

Cordillera claimed two athletics golds as Edimond Cadelina ruled the secondary boys' discus throw and Katherine Kaye Santos dominated the elementary girls' high jump.

Northern Mindanao also snatched two golds through Alguin Bolivar in the secondary boys' 1,500m and Arlene Tolentino in the secondary girls' 1,500m. Irish Layaog topped the elementary girls 1,500m for Davao region.

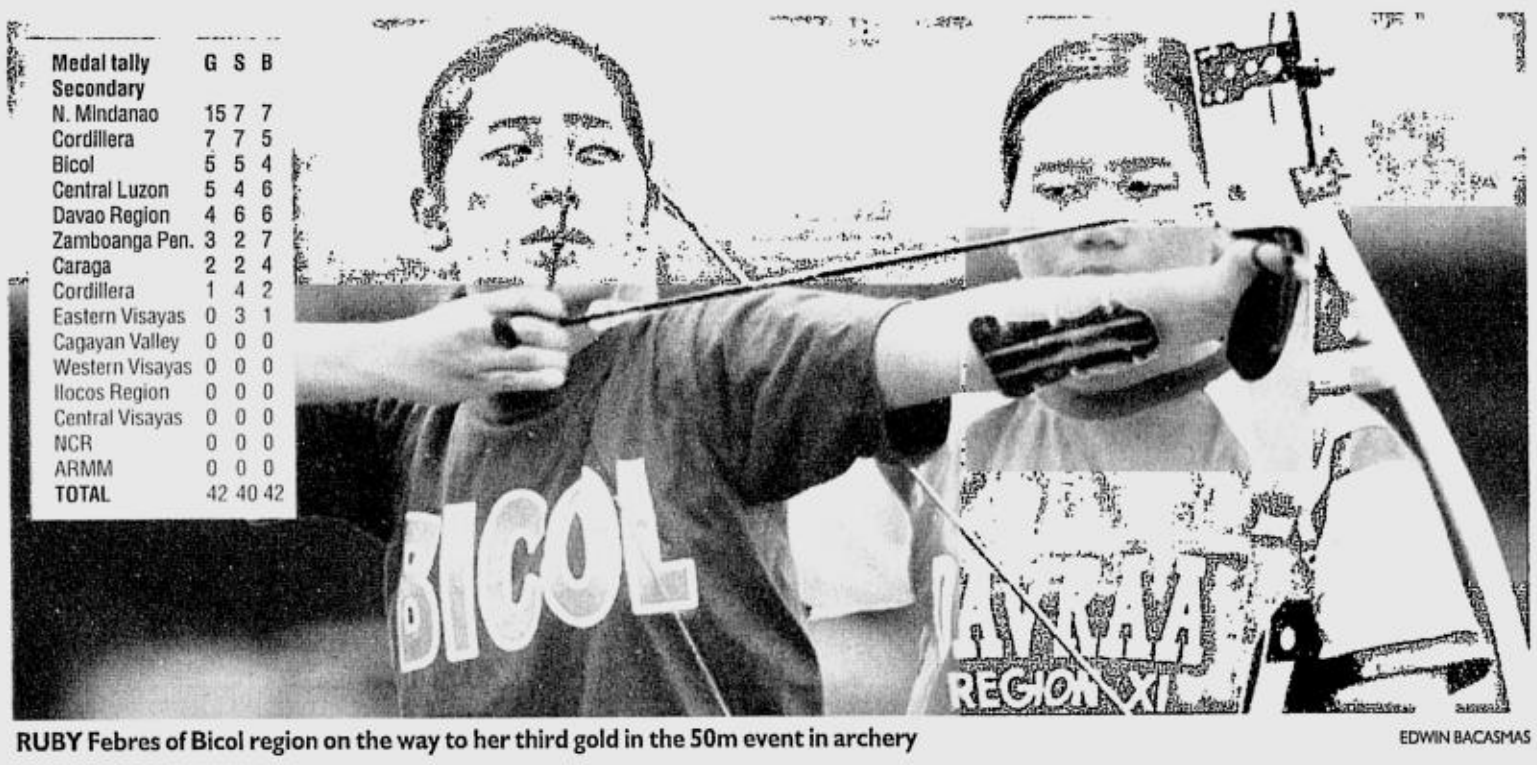
Iligan City gave NM five swim golds through Shahani Navarro (secondary girls' 200m breaststroke), Nianh Lyn Marie Acain (secondary girls' 100m butterfly), Joshua Again (elementary boys' 100m fly), Margarett Chiong (elementary girls' 100m fly) and Monique Bacolod (secondary girls' 200m back).

Zamboanga and Central Mindanao also captured two golds each in the pool.

Officials said the three postponements derailed NCR's plan to field a team despite getting the full subsidy of P2 million from the organizing Philippine Sports Commission.

Also absent is Southern Tagalog, a former Palaro power which was broken up into two regions, namely Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) and Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan).

Medal tally	G	S	B
Secondary			
N. Mindanao	15	7	7
Cordillera	7	7	5
Bicol	5	5	4
Central Luzon	5	4	6
Davao Region	4	6	6
Zamboanga Pen.	3	2	7
Caraga	2	2	4
Cordillera	1	4	2
Eastern Visayas	0	3	1
Cagayan Valley	0	0	0
Western Visayas	0	0	0
Ilocos Region	0	0	0
Central Visayas	0	0	0
NCR	0	0	0
ARMM	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	40	42



RUBY Febres of Bicol region on the way to her third gold in the 50m event in archery EDWIN BACASMAS

SPORTSWATCH

Bata bows to Hohmann, settles for 3rd

EFREN "Bata" Reyes had his "three-peat" bid halted by reigning world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany as the Filipino wound up third in the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland over the weekend. Hohmann ousted Reyes, 8-5, in a tense semifinal round battle to arrange a winner-take-all showdown against eventual champion Rodney Morris of the United States. Morris, who earlier bested Taiwanese superstar Hui Kai-hsia, 8-6, in the other semifinal match, drubbed Hohmann in the finals, 8-3, to win the $15,000 top purse. Reyes, winner of this tournament last year and in 2001, had beaten Hohmann, 6-4, in the elimination round. He won $8,000. *Marlon Bernardino*

Cebuano upsets Arcilla in PCA netfest

UNSEEDED Cebuano Julius Lagman scored a 6-3, 6-3 upset win over second seed Russell Arcilla Jr. yesterday in the boys' 14-under division of the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Juniors Tennis Championships at the PCA outdoor courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. Lagman will meet Ryan Daza, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Dareen Requiso, when the tournament resumes on Nov. 2. Other winners were No. 1 Pablo Olivarez over Angelo Patrimonio, 6-0, 6-1; Kim Ryan Patena over Riel Floreza, 6-1, 6-1; Gian Paulo Aguila over Niko Katigbak, 6-1, 6-1; Bobby Chiu over Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, 6-1, 6-2; Francis Ryan Onate over Homer Paulo Perez, 6-4, 6-0, and France Rivero over Eldan Moselina, 6-2, 6-3. In the boys' 12-under category, Joseph Soyusa rallied past Paul Nicole Magaway, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; Kim Ivor Saraza downed Patrick Alina, 6-0, 6-2, to join No. 1 Akio Sy, No. 2 Joseph Baldonado and Joshua Galang in the next round.

Latina, Yambao rule Beam-Zest-O race

TOP guns of the Lipa City Runners Club and the husband-and-wife tandem of Jun Raterta and Luisa Yambao hogged the limelight in the first provincial 5-km race of the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy in San Luis, Batangas, last Sunday. Lipa's Frederick Latina, 24, ruled the men's race with a time of 18 minutes and 30 seconds. He won P3, 000. But Yambao denied the Lipa runners a sweep of the major categories by winning the women's race in 24:45. Yambao, whose twin sister, Liza, finished third in the event's recent inaugural run in Manila and then won the Milo Marathon finals last week, beat Lipa bets Annaliza de Roxas (24:54) and Rosette Latina (27:17) to pocket the P3,000 champion's purse. Raterta wound up second, with Victor Piores of Cavite State University third in 20:40. San Luis Mayor Napoleon Lasala and race organizer Nelson Macaraig awarded the prizes to the winners.

Paez tops exec active chess

DENTIST Alfredo Paez captured the combined Elite-Classic divisions of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express over the weekend at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. Paez drew with businessman Jess Sanchez in the last round then emerged with a better tiebreak score over the latter to bring home the champion's trophy in the Elite section. Jun Rojano also edged Christopher Castellano in the tiebreak to top the Classic section. Johnny Caballero won the Belgosa Medal for Chess Excellence for being the best Under-1800 performer. Tied for 3rd place in the Elite section were defending champion Jenny Mayor and Verth Alora with 4.5 points apiece.

San Pablo Heat stagfest today

BIG-TIME cockers are vying in the San Pablo Heat 4-Stag Derby starting at 6 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 62 fights on tap. Hosting the event are San Pablo City cocker Blandy Tolentino, a regular fixture in Ucap and NCA derbies, and Renato Shio. Heading the list of favorites are Sonny Lagon, Patrick Antonio, Ram Lopez, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, LGBA president Boy Diaz, Jun Sevilla, Pol Estrellado, Joey and Buboy de los Santos, Boy de Roca, Jun Topacio, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Lito Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, and Rudy Salud. Meanwhile, Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto emerged as solo champion in a field of 86 entries in last week's 1st LGBA-7-Stag Derby after his entry, Anito, posted a perfect score of seven points. Runner-up finishers with six points each were Eddie Lee (Super Warrior), Benjie Lim (Banahaw I), Jess de Vera (BBC Jaf) and Boy Camilla (BMJ).

Mindanao breeders hold qualifiers

THE MINDANAO Gamefowl Breeders Association will hold its 3-stag qualifying round today and on Thursday to determine the Migba's representatives to the Bakbakan 2003 championship set Nov. 22, 24 and 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. With the most number of stags banded this year—39,000 out of the 150,000 from among member associations of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders—Migba will hold 80-plus qualifying matches at the Davao Matina Gallera in Davao City starting at 4 p.m. The group is headed by its chairman, Arthur Uy, and president Nitoy Nasser, who will be featured in this morning's Thunderbird Balitang-Bakbakan portion of the "Hataw" program of Deo Macalma and Ruth Abao-Espinosa over DZRH 666 AM between 9 and 9:30 a.m. The show is sponsored by Enertone Ready-Mixed Concentrate.

Roligon stakes P2.25-M prize bonanza

WITH the moulting season almost over, Roligon Mega Cockpit will host the Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby on Nov. 29, Dec. 2, 4 and 6, with a whopping total cash pot of P2.25 million. Promoter Rolly Ligon said the affordable entry fee of P8,000 is expected to lure more than 300 entries to the derby. The fastest kill champion will win the bonus prize—an imported Nissan Serena, now on display at the Roligon lobby. All two pointers in the elimination rounds (Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and 4) will share in the P80,000 prize, while the fastest kill winner gets P30,000. The champion handler and gaffer will receive P150,000 and P80,000, respectively. Reservation is ongoing. For inquiries call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

All eyes on Immonen

FORMER world champion Mika Immonen of Finland guns for another win when the "On Cue II on Studio 23" 9-ball tournament unfolds today at Silicon Hall on the 4th floor of Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

"I have won here before, I can win again," Immonen said, referring to his victories against European champion Ralf Souquet of Germany in the final of "On Cue I" recently and against Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the LG Flatron championship last year.

Immonen is facing the best pool pros of the Philippines, Europe and United States in the four-day event backed by Puyat Sports, headed by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. which will telecast the meet.

Other big guns joining are Bustamante, Efren "Bata" Reyes, reigning world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland and Johnny Archer of the US, Canada-based Alex Pagulayan and Venancio Tanio.

Englishwoman Michaela Tabb will referee the major matches of the tournament.

The winner of the event gets $20,000, second placer $10,000, third placer $5,000 and fourth placer $3,000, all courtesy of ABS-CBN.

Southwoods up in CJH ladies golf

By Frank Cimatu, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—Manila Southwoods blew hot on a cold day and took a commanding lead at the start of the Camp John Hay-Asian Ladies Team Championship yesterday at the Camp John Hay golf course.

Tracy Locsin gunned down four birdies en route to an even-par 69 for 54 points to lead the Carmona, Cavite-based team with 171 points in the premier Group 1 division of the three-category event backstopped by ePLDT, Bayo and Wilson Sports.

Locsin's birdies on the 1st, 10th, 11th and 12th holes nullified her two bogeys and a double bogey on the ninth.

Beachie Abiera had 48, while Sandy Velhagen and Marilyn Ty chipped in 36 and 33 points, respectively, to complete the Southwoods scoring under the six-to-play, four-to-count format.

Aguinaldo was second, 14 points behind with 157, after a pair of 44 from teener Matet Salivio and Rita Horan. NGAP stood third at 156.

Masa Tsai scored 41 to lift Forest Hills to the Group 2 lead with 158 points. Valley held second after a 145 while host CJH was third with 139.

Sonia Bruce chalked up 38 points to give Baguio Country Club a one-point lead in Group 3. The team tallied 146, with Philippine Navy a close second with 145 points. The Baguio Ladies Open Golf Association was third with 132.

Normal U stuns UST cagebelles

LIGHTLY regarded Philippine Normal University shocked defending champion Santo Tomas, 48-47, last Saturday, enabling Miriam College to grab solo leadership in the multilevel Milo BEST Women's Basketball League at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills.

The loss dropped UST to second spot with a 4-1 record, while Miriam, which beat Assumption College, 56-43, raised its mark to 4-0.

BI orders seizure of Lim passport

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday ordered the confiscation of the passport of Basketball Association of the Philippines' secretary general Graham Lim.

Immigration Comissioner Andrea Domingo issued the order, noting that the passport, bearing no. ZZ060716 dated June 22, 2000, was earlier cancelled by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Domingo, in a statement, said the passport would be placed on a blacklist. This authorizes Immigration officers in the country's ports to confiscate it and turn it over to the DFA.

Lim, 46, was earlier accused of violating Immigration laws after the BI found out that he is a Chinese citizen born in Tondo to Chinese parents and is registered with the BI as a Chinese national.

Lim was the subject of a deportation complaint filed by former BAP secretary general Emmanuel Juan Perez de Tagle and former basketball referee Liberato Valenzuela.

Race of a lifetime

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOW I know how hard it is to win the Formula One crown. Much less finish a Formula One leg in one whole piece.

I should know. I have driven a Formula One car. I did it just last week in Tokyo, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines Inc.

You've got to believe it, or Alfred Ty, Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus—or even Vince Socco, Toyota's eagle eye of a dude based in Singapore—would accuse me of lying.

During the race, I turned turtle thrice, my car spinning out of the race circuit at speeds of 250 kph.

I did not die because the Toyota Mega Web would not allow it.

During the race, I crashed into cars of my rivals four times; three of those that I hit had Michael Schumacher, Rubens Barrichello and Juan Pablo Montoya behind the wheel.

I did not even suffer a minor scratch because, again, the Toyota Mega Web would not allow it.

This is one Formula 1 race that is hurt-free. The only noticeable thing during and after the race is the sweat trickling down your forehead—as what Deo Macalma had experienced. When I stepped out of the car, my palms were also wet, my armpits moist, my knees shaking a bit.

My race of a lifetime was over in 15 minutes or so. I had recorded my maximum speed at 275 kph.

Welcome to First World wonders.

The Mega Web is a Toyota Theme Park located in the Rinkai Fukutoshin area, also called as the Odaiba, not far from the heart of the city. It caters to the entire family as children are treated to six attractions, the most popular being the 3D Motion Theater where "the motion seat" moves totally in sync with the 3D image and will send you to a thrilling drive that is really impossible to experience in real life.

There are other equally excitement-filled features, like the futuristic test-drive as well as in-the-market vehicles down two sets of courses within the Mega Web. A showroom displays the latest Toyota models and concept cars. And then there is the History Garage, where a vast collection of vintage cars of all shapes and sizes gives you a glimpse of what kind of vehicles man had driven 50, 70 years ago. By simply looking at the restored cars, you'd think that Toyota's moguls are not only driven by profits. Their assembly of vintage cars could easily fetch millions of dollars. They are there as feast for the eyes.

The Toyota Mega Web drew 8.45 million visitors in its inaugural year in 1999. As of March this year from April 2002, it had attracted 6.24 million visitors.

But back to my Formula One initiation.

What I had driven was a replica of Toyota's entry in the Formula One, complete with a foot accelerator pedal and a brake pedal, and a wheel that had the same buttons used in a Formula One car. In front of you, 10 feet away, is a screen that shows the Suzuka Speedway, the course used in the last leg of the recent Formula One. That's where I ran my race, simulated by electronic devices and image-making wonders.

And how did I finish?

Eighteenth. But laugh not, fellas. I was second to last among 22 racers with one lap to go. With some adroit maneuvering coupled with luck, I managed to go three rungs up to finish 18th. Not bad for a rookie although I wound up a bit too far behind Anjo Perez, the race expert who finished fifth.

Still, Danny Isla had a field day heckling me after my baptism of fire. "You mean you had others behind you after you crossed the finish line?"

I promise to do better next year, Danny I. This early, I'll begin training for my sophomore year. With some luck, who knows, I may yet finish 17th.

***

FASTBREAK. I might drink beer with Dr. Nono Cosio of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, who now calls Roxas City home, soon. Nono is one fellow whose gentle ways could put to shame Kofi Anan's stately manners. Of course, set to join Nono and me are lovely couple Nonong and Astrid Fernandez of Austria together with their liberal-minded son, Patrick, Diding Mosher from Phoenix, Arizona, and Dante and Ching Fernandez from SSS Village, Marikina City. Among our hosts are Tia Rosie, and Nelson and Vielma Almonguerra.

OFF TO BEIJING: Autohouse BMW recently gave a send-off party for the Philippine delegation to the last leg of the 2003 Formula BMW in Beijing, China. From left, Autohouse sales manager Tonton Aquino, team members Dado Peña, Tyson Sy and Don Pastor, and Autohouse corporate communications manager Doris Pastoriza. Sy only needs to finish first and third in the round to bag the Rookie of the Year title.

FUNAI CLASSIC CHAMP

Singh grabs money list lead

SINGH raises his arm in triumph after birdieing the 18th hole. AFP

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Vijay Singh has never been so close to ending Tiger Woods' four-year reign of the PGA Tour money list.

At this rate, he won't rule out his chances of replacing him as No. 1 in the world.

Singh took a huge step toward the first goal Sunday with an easy victory in the Funai Classic at Disney, finishing with another long birdie putt for a 5-under 67 that vaulted him to the top of the money list.

"I hope I don't wake up from this dream," Singh said after his four-shot victory over Woods, Scott Verplank and Stewart Cink, his fourth of the year.

Singh finished at 23-under 265 and earned $720,000 to take over the lead on the money list at just over $6.8 million. He now has a $250,094 lead over Woods.

Advantage, Vijay.

The big Fijian is playing next week in the $4.8 million Chrysler Championship in Tampa, and could further pad his lead with a good finish.

Woods, who already has played eight fewer events than Singh, is taking the week off.

He did well to make sure the gap wasn't larger. Despite a bogey on the first hole, Woods shot 31 on the back nine at Magnolia for a 65 and wound up in a tie for second at 269.

In fact, Woods picked up an extra $98,000 in a matter of two minutes when Cink and John Rollins missed par putts on the final hole.

Even so, Singh could clinch the money title by winning in Tampa, which would be worth $864,000. Otherwise, the money title will be decided in Houston at the Tour Championship.

Woods said he's not playing in Tampa because he wants to be fresh for the $6 million Tour Championship, and he was not overly concerned when told that Singh could make the final event of the year a moot point.

The 40-year-old Singh will go up to No. 2 when the world rankings are released Monday, his highest position ever. Woods has been No. 1 since winning the 1999 PGA Championship, and still has a huge lead over Singh.

Fish nets first ATP diadem

STOCKHOLM—American Mardy Fish finally won his first ATP title on Sunday as he beat Swedish wild card Robin Soderling, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6, at the Stockholm Open.

It was an emotional win for the fifth seed, who lost three straight finals earlier during the year. The win put the 21-year-old Fish into the top 20 of the ATP's entry rankings system.

THE DUCK Defenders display their trophy and the giant check.

Amahit stars as Defenders rule PBT tilt

SEA Games veteran Bogs Amahit and promising junior Raquel Guerrero sparkled as the Duck Defenders blanked the Heron Hitters, 3-0, to claim the title Saturday night in the Philippine Badminton Tournaments (PBT) Invitational at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

Amahit, a member of the team that won the bronze medal in the 1997 Jakarta Games, sizzled in the deciding third set to win the men's singles over three-time Asian Junior Championships campaigner Jaime Junio, 15-11, 11-15, 15-6.

In the opening ladies singles, Guerrero, winner of the JVC Open 18-under singles and doubles titles, humbled seasoned national player Alma Ledesma to prevail, 11-3, 8-11, 11-5.

Guerrero and Bog's wife Mylene outclassed Karyn Velez and Alma Ledesma, 15-4, 15-7, to complete the win in the country's premier badminton series on television, which is sponsored by Sportshouse, PLDT Vibe and Yonex.

Bogs and Mylene Amahit, Guerrero, and fellow Duck Defenders Martin Araneta, Mark Mayo, Maiqui Laurel and team captain Salvador Banquilles received their gold medals, championship trophy and P120,000 in cash from Philippine Badminton Association vice president Gen. Edgardo Aglipay.

Complete matches of the semifinal and final will be shown on RPN-9 on Sunday from 4-6 p.m. and on Solar Sports on Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

Jopson tops triathlon meet

CERNAN "Nonoy" Jopson sizzled in the bike race to quash the challenge of his rivals and rule the 1st Subaru Forester Enduraman Triathlon Challenge over the weekend at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) grounds.

The 28-year-old Jopson timed three hours, four minutes and 13 seconds in the 180-km event for a total clocking of 11 hours, 28 minutes and 46 seconds, or almost an hour over his nearest rival in the one-day event organized by Corevents Asia and also supported by David Salon, Kymco Motors, Snickers, Suunto, San Remo, Clara Ole, Business World Online, Motorista.com, MTV Ink, Pulp, official hotel Subic International and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Jopson, who finished second behind Alvin Alindogan in last year's Ironman Challenge race held in Matabungkay, Batangas, raised both hands in triumph after completing the race to the cheers of his supporters.

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1–1. I Love This Game 2. Native Land 3. Ruthless
Race 2–1. Mystika 2. Mighty Dragon 3. Long Road 4. Rising Fast 5. Manila Mauler
Race 3–1. Silver Lining 2. Winning Prize 3. Husay Na 4. Divine Right
Race 4–1. D'Barrister 2. Friendly Lover 3. Master Professor
Race 5–1. Pride of Cebu 2. Richie Rich 3. She Boom 4. He's Splendid
Race 6–1. Nag-lisang Ikaw 2. La Española 3. Caesar's Inn 4. Kusang Loob
Race 7–1. Arrogante 2. Love Song 3. Captain Stone 4. That's My Tiger 5. Longshot Tony
Race 8–1. Top Mark 2. G Square 3. Master Kenneth 4. Show Affection
Race 9–1. Seven Lakes 2. Juara 3. Piper Gee 4. Play the Thing 5. Sakura Ijhay 6. Blood Sweat

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

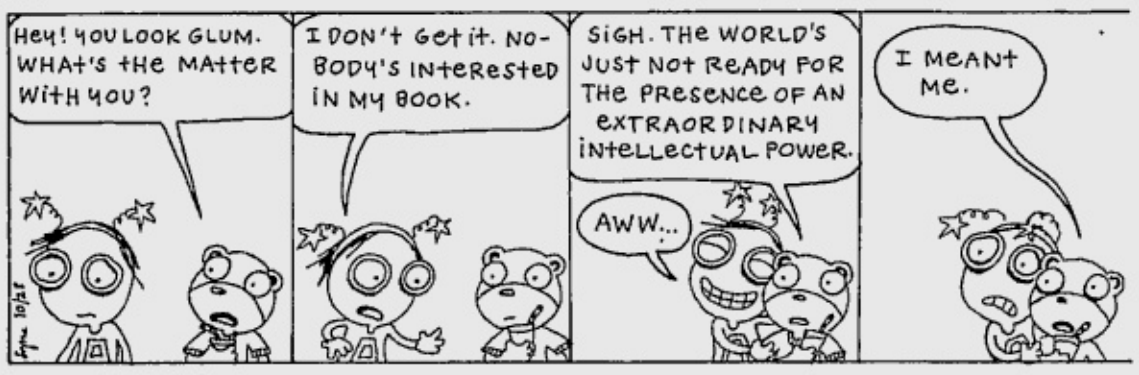
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're curious about many things in life. You might express this in a childlike way. Nevertheless, nothing slips by you. You are thorough and well-prepared for whatever you do. You do your research before you begin anything. You are skilled with money and investments. Increased solitude allows you to learn something important in the year ahead.
Birthdate of: Dennis Franz, actor; Bill Gates, Microsoft billionaire; Julia Roberts, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You identify strongly with your opinions today, especially your thoughts about politics, religion and education. You can't expect others to agree with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're attracted to secrets and other hidden matters today. You want to know what's going on in the life of someone else. Your desire to know makes you think like a detective.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone might decide that he or she knows what's best for you. You are the only one who truly knows which course you should take.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Trust your efforts to make improvements at work. You will succeed. Take a lighthearted approach, because this way others will be more ready to jump onboard.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You could fall in love today. Intense feelings for others spring from out of nowhere. Someone could feel this way about you. (Exciting stuff!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Make changes or repairs to where you live today. Similarly, patch up human relationships that are faltering. (It might help to put yourself in someone else's shoes.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel very strongly about practically everything today. Your passionate nature is aroused. Refrain from giving too much "helpful" advice to others—especially siblings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With three planets in your sign now, you feel powerful! Today in particular, you might be the victim of impulse buying. Think twice before you spend your money.

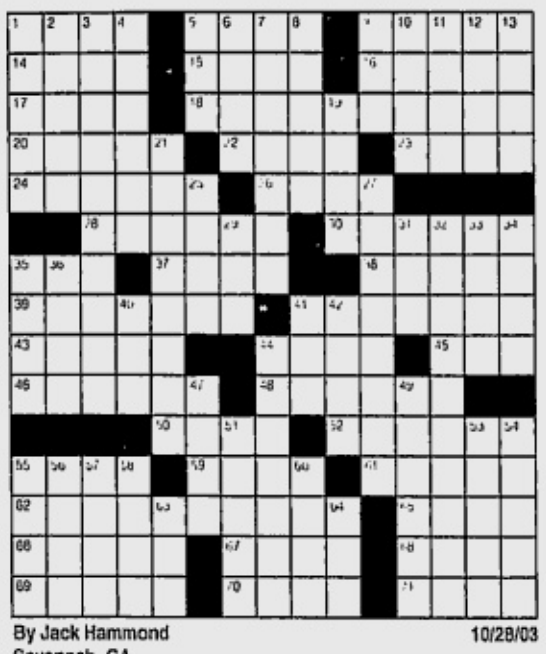
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Usually, you are a lighthearted, breezy, easygoing individual. Today, however, others might find you a bit intense. Perhaps you need to distance yourself from your opinions?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Unconscious desires might drive you to say anything to win an argument today. You feel you have to convince others of something. Reality check: You don't. Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If someone is coming on too heavy today, you don't have to listen—you can just move on. Don't let friends and groups convince you of something you don't really believe.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Management has strong suggestions today about how to improve things. Whether you agree or not, this is certainly not the day to openly disagree.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA

10/28/03

ACROSS
1 __ Raton, FL
5 Science rooms
9 Lacking originality
14 Aphrodite's boy
15 Winglike parts
16 Go along with
17 Talk wildly
18 Confused
20 Surmise
22 Mennen aftershave
23 "__ and the King"
24 Greek markets
26 Bausch's lens-making partner
28 Destroyed
30 Angel of the first order
35 Writer Rand
37 Divided avenue: abbr.
38 __ prosequi
39 Confused
41 Confused
43 Fountain of three coins
44 Manila machete
45 Merry month
46 Short section of track
48 Verdi opera
50 Garland's real last name
52 Loss of coordination
55 Creative flash
59 Actor Julia
61 Levels
62 Confused
65 Duchin or Nelson
66 Gander's mate
67 Astin of "The Lord of the Rings"
68 Enticement
69 Composer of "Over the Rainbow"
70 Writer Ferber
71 Roasting rod

DOWN
1 Cohort of Stalin
2 Large ape, briefly
3 Confused
4 Aft
5 Thai's neighbor
6 __-Romeo
7 Confused
8 Heated dispute
9 Thar __ blows!
10 Big band instrument
11 Ending word
12 Advance
13 Ms. Bombeck
19 Bad thespians
21 Digressive
25 Markdown event
27 Ester used in perfumery
29 Movie on a PC
31 Peri on "Frasier"
32 Confused
33 Entreaty
34 Lamarr of "Algiers"
35 Qtys.
36 Cosmonaut Gagarin
40 Half of MXII
41 _ favor, senor
42 Forearm bone
44 Confused
47 Spiritual guide
49 Belly buttons
51 Billiards stroke
53 Arboreal lemur
54 So far
55 Actress Swenson
56 Way out
57 Hydroxyl compound
58 Polygonal projection
60 Be inclined?
63 Sportscaster Berman
64 O.J. trial letters

Monday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	S	S			S	O	R	E	S		H	E	A	R
I	S	L	E			T	R	I	N	E		U	S	D	A
M	O	U	T	H	O	R	G	A	N			R	A	I	N
A	F	G	H	A	N			S	C	O	L	D	I	N	G
					L	E	I			T	R	A	Y		
M	I	S	S	T	A	T	E			A	N	G	O	R	A
I	R	A	Q			G	E	L	S			D	U	N	E	S
M	E	N	U			E	M	I	L	E			R	A	T	S
E	N	D	E	D			S	O	O	N			D	I	R	E
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S	A	A	B			T	I	N	W	H	I	S	T	L	E
A	C	R	O			U	N	T	I	E			S	C	U	M
F	L	E	X			P	E	S	T	S			O	H	M	S

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10/28/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Sony not giggling over $42-M loss due to J. Lo flop

LOS ANGELES—Top Hollywood studio Sony Pictures is licking its financial wounds following its appalling summer flop of superstar couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's movie, "Gigli."

The studio, which a year ago was on the top of Tinseltown's pile following the record-breaking hit of its "Spiderman" movie, reported a $42-million third quarter loss as it tried to forget "Gigli."

A year earlier, the studio reported a profit of $2.7 million for the three months ending Sept. 30 on the back of its 2002 comic-book hero epic movie, which raked in more than $821 million worldwide.

The loss contributed to a 25-percent drop in Sony's total net profit, which fell to $297 million.

"Gigli" was called the cinematic horror of the year and "the worst movie of our admittedly young century." *AFP*

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by parent or adult

THE ROCK SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT CHRISTOPHER WALKEN ROSARIO DAWSON

New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred, jungle-action adventure, and the No.1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an international Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stiller in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial arts champion.

Simultaneously in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cag. de Oro

NOW SHOWING NATION-WIDE!

SHOW TIME

'Dance for the Lord!'

THE BUKAS Loob sa Diyos Catholic Covenant Community is inviting all kind-hearted, fun-loving music lovers to "Let's Dance for the Lord!", a retro dance concert on Nov. 8

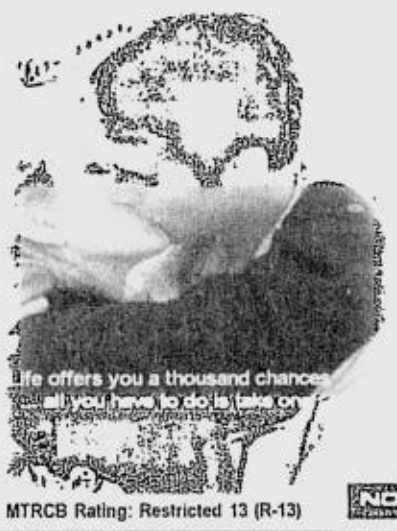
To perform at the Le Pavillon in Pasay City are the toast of the retro scene, the Spirit of '67, as well as new talents from Viva Entertainment.

The show starts promptly at 7 p.m.

Proceeds from "Let's Dance for the Lord!" will go to the construction of the BLD Retreat Center, the BLD mission outreaches and the Hospicio de San Jose.

Tickets are at P750 with dinner, and 550 without dinner. For inquiries, call Boy or Babes Sy at 655-6888 or 639-2662, or Audie San Juan at (0918)510-0710.

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT ArtFilm



"A Romantic Winner!" — Ebert & Roeper

"Two Thumbs Up!" — Ebert & Roeper

DIANE LANE

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

MTRCB RATING ▶ R — 18 | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Special Halloween Presentation!

A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

From the producer of the SCREAM movies, comes IDENTITY, a smart, mind- bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

SCREAM! The TERROR begins TOMORROW!

TWO LOVE STORIES IN ONE MOVIE THAT WILL MAKE YOU FALL IN-LOVE LIKE IT'S THE FIRST TIME!!!

John Lloyd Cruz Bea Alonzo John Prats Heart Evangelista

MY FIRST ROMANCE

Directed by: John-D Lazatin • Don Cuaresma

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OPENS TOMORROW!

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BELPHEGOR	1 HEAD OF THE STATE	ArtFilm SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	THX GUARANTEED SEATS HEAD OF THE STATE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	THX 1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE RUNDOWN	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING		THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE RUNDOWN 12:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	2 THE RUNDOWN 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 7:40, 9:45	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FREAKY FRIDAY 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 11:00	3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 HEAD OF THE STATE	4 MATCHSTICK MEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 BELPHEGOR
	5 UNDERWORLD	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29. 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 1:35, 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05, 11:00	5 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
	6 THE RUNDOWN			
	7 FREAKY FRIDAY			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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2 FREDDY VS. JASON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
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1
2
3

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(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
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2 UTANG NG AMA
3 RESERVE
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Gotesco City
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4 RESERVE
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
8 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

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3 UTANG NG AMA
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5 BELPHEGOR
6 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
8 KIKAY
9 KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 KIKAY

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2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
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4 KIKAY
5 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN

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Lords LALAKE
Jennet RESERVE

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MARRIOTT tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 BELPHEGOR
3 KIKAY
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 BUGBOG SARADO

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(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
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1 KIKAY
2 UTANG NG AMA

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4 (SDDS) RUNDOWN
5 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
6 THE SUSPECT
7 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

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1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 (DTS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) MATCHSTICK MEN
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS!
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY) INNERSENSES
4 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

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2 KIKAY
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2 UTANG NG AMA
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2 BUGBOG SARADO
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2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 UTANG NG AMA

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(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
AMERICAN PIE THE WDDING
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS) THE SUSPECT
4

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 RESERVE
3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UTANG NG AMA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY DS) THE RUNDOWN
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DTS/SDDS) MATCHSTICK MEN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MATCHSTICK MEN

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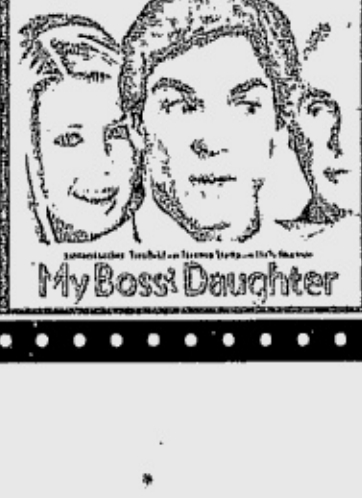

NOW SHOWING

Regine: No intrigue can break my friendship with Ariel

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

EVEN if **Regine Velasquez** is already soaring high as Asia's songbird, she keeps on finding new ways to wow her adoring audience.

Regine is busy promoting her latest single, "Tell Me," a remake of the popular Joey Albert love song and which is a duet with her ex-boyfriend **Ariel Rivera**.

Of course, their sheer talent alone is more than enough to sell their records, but you know how it is in Philippine show biz.

Most fans are more interested in the sub-plot than in the main story.

In the case of Regine and Ariel, people want to know if sparks flew during their recording and shooting of the video.

Regine guffawed. "Gosh! That's history already! But I know it's unavoidable that the public will think that way because we were lovers before. And since *medyo* romantic *ang* video, I understand why some may find it odd and expect that there's something more to it. Ariel and I have always been comfortable working with each other, so it's no big deal.

"Besides, we are both happy with our lives now and I'm thankful that his wife **Gelli** has been so supportive of him. They even gave me a sketch pad and drawing materials as a gift. Peace *na* peace *na kami* and no amount of intrigue can ruin our friendship."

She admits, though, that there are times she gets sick and tired of all the rumors concocted about her. One can only take so much. Still, she will never turn her back on show business, she says.

"When I get affected by nasty rumors," she says, "I just remind myself how kind show biz has been to me all these years. So, despite the intrigues that are part and parcel of the biz, I am still grateful to be a part of it. And I'll keep on singing for as long as the public wants me to."

Regine better be ready then to spend eternity singing her heart out.

Guess who

... this action star is who is such a pro when it comes to womanizing. He managed to sneak out of his hotel room, where he was staying with his wife and their kids, to meet up with his beauty queen paramour when they were in an exclusive resort. Insiders claim that he even bought his lover a house. The girl has a boyfriend who just chooses to play blind. Oh, well. Love may be blind but it ain't deaf. Soon enough, the murmurs will affect the boyfriend, and who knows what can happen if he and the action star cross paths.

Back to back

HALLOWEEN 2004 will be different for Pinoys living in California, especially in Carson City, where **Jocelyn Enriquez** and L.A.'s teen diva, **Cheryl Marie**, will perform in a back-to-back concert on Nov. 1 and 2.

This is the first time in the recording career of Jocelyn that she is performing back-to-back with a fellow Filipino American artist. It is also a dream come true for Cheryl Marie, who has been looking forward to doing a show with Jocelyn.

The duo of April Boys (**Vingo** and **Jimmy**) will be their guest.

Cheryl Marie is also preparing for her Yuletide concert featuring a surprise diva from Manila.

Encore!

SPEAKING of Pinoy artists, I immensely enjoyed the concert of **Paolo Santos**, **Nina** and my "idol" **Medwin Marfil** (of my fave band True Faith) at the Virgin Café. The place was packed with acoustic music lovers.

Paolo, Nina and Med didn't upstage each other at all. They brought out the best in each other's style. Even if True Faith has been around for 10 years, it's amazing that it can play side by side with new talents like Nina and Paolo. Talk about staying power.

In a way, True Faith pioneered the acoustic genre locally with its hit "Huwag Na Lang Kaya," which is a staple in most acoustic singers' repertoire.

The awesome threesome should have an encore of their Virgin Café show.

About TJ

MY good buddy and fun co-host **TJ Manotoc** will be hosting the anniversary party of S Mag tonight at Virgin Café. And tomorrow, Oct. 29, he will host the opening of the new wing of Robinson's Galleria.

Send TJ to 326 for Smart and 2978 for Globe to ask him anything (even for a date, TJ?) or get daily updates about his life (especially his love life?)

Happy Halloween, everyone! May the "ghosts" of your past not haunt you. Don't brew anything I wouldn't brew!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@ truefaithband.com

Three innovative films coming up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Celluloid romp in new off-the-beaten-track films

LOONEY Tune's popular band of animated performers, headed by Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, co-star with **Brendan Fraser** and **Jenna Elfman** in the innovative live action-adventure comedy, "Looney Tunes Back in Action."

The film is set in a live-action world where cartoon characters interact with actors for maximum comic effect, in an antic style reminiscent of the breakthrough hit, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?"

The celluloid romp takes the antic cast from Hollywood to Las Vegas, and from Paris to Africa, in search of Fraser's missing father and the mythical Blue Monkey Diamond. Fraser is cast as a security guard at a movie studio, while Elfman plays a film executive.

Also starring are **Steve Martin** as the nefarious chair of a big, bad corporation; ex-James Bond **Timothy Dalton** as Fraser's father, a legendary actor; and **Joan Cusack** as the commander of the to p-secret Area 52 project.

Also off the beaten movie track is the film "Good Boy," which has a dog for its lead player. The production's plot line has it that an invasion of Earth is being planned by the distant planet of Sirius, so canine spies are sent here to gather information to prepare for the coming attack.

With none of their agents reporting back, the Sirius military sends its best dog, Canid 3942 (voiced by **Matthew Broderick**) to Earth to find out what's going on. Soon after landing, Canid is befriended by a young boy, Owen, who runs a dog-walking service.

With the "Great Dane" of Sirius on her way to inspect her canine troops here, it's up to Canid 3942 (renamed "Hubble" by Owen) to snap the dogs in his area back into shape. Otherwise, all the dogs on Earth will be sent back to Sirius for rehabilitation—and humans will lose all of their best friends!

A droll story, which we hope will be imaginatively and entertainingly acted out on the big screen—by the production's human and canine performers alike!

Finally, **David Spade** goes offbeat in his own comedic way in his new starrer, "Dickie Roberts, Former Child Star." He is cast as a former child star who is prepared to do anything and everything to recapture lost glory.

Now a 35-year-old parking valet, Dickie is able to wrangle an audition with director **Rob Reiner** (portraying himself), but Reiner isn't sure if Dickie has it in him to stage a successful comeback.

His explanation: Because of his former life in the spotlight, Dickie missed out on his childhood, so he isn't "normal" enough for the role he's after.

Determined to get his director's nod, Dickie comes up with a plan to belatedly go through the childhood that he's missed. Can someone who hasn't had a normal upbringing simply "reprogram" himself like a human computer? **Dickie Roberts** is about to find out!

New docus

AWARD-WINNING journalist **Christiane Amanpour** and filmmaker **Geraldine Wurzburg** headline CNN International's documentary line-up for November.

In "Blowback: Afghanistan on the Brink," Amanpour goes back to the beleaguered country and finds that warlords have taken control of much of it, while there is a resurgence of the Taliban along the Pakistani border.

However, signs of recovery are slowly emerging: Women are back at work, and girls are allowed to attend school.

Amanpour exposes a nation caught between the ancient feudal system and its hopes for a modern democracy. Among the personalities interviewed are Afghanistan's appointed leader, **Hamid Karzai**, and **Ismael Khan**, one of the country's powerful warlords.

"Blowback" will be telecast on CNN at 9 p.m. on Nov. 1 (replay on Nov. 2 at 4 p.m.).

On Nov. 15 at 9 p.m., the documentary on view is "President Kennedy Has Been Shot." On the 40th anniversary of **John F. Kennedy's** death, producer-director Wurzburg uses rarely heard vintage audiotapes to take viewers through the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

The production also includes archival film footage and photographs, as well as new interviews with journalists who covered the story and were eyewitnesses to the event.

Wurzburg's documentary will be replayed on Nov. 16 at 4 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW...

Zsa Zsa Padilla is working on advance tapings for "Star in a Million," the new ABS-CBN talent search show, which is a spin-off of a segment on "Asap Mania." Zsa Zsa is scheduled to leave the country with **Dolphy** in the last week of November for their Dec. 9 wedding in Las Vegas, where Zsa Zsa's family is based. Finally tying the knot will be a dream come true for the couple, after 14 years of waiting. Zsa Zsa recently got her marriage annulment from the Parañaque regional trial court, issued by **Judge Helen Ricafort**.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	UTANG NG AMA
B	RUNDOWN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-2	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-3	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUSPECT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-6	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-7	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-8	KIKAY (R)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DELPHEGOR
CINEMA-12	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-14	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-15	UTANG NA AMA

LORES

CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-1	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-2	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	UTANG NG AMA
Ali 2	BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	BELPHEGOR
Ali 6	THE SUSPECT
Ali 7	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

ARANETA COLISEUM

OCT 29	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
NOV 2	PBA: SHELL VS. PUREFOODS
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

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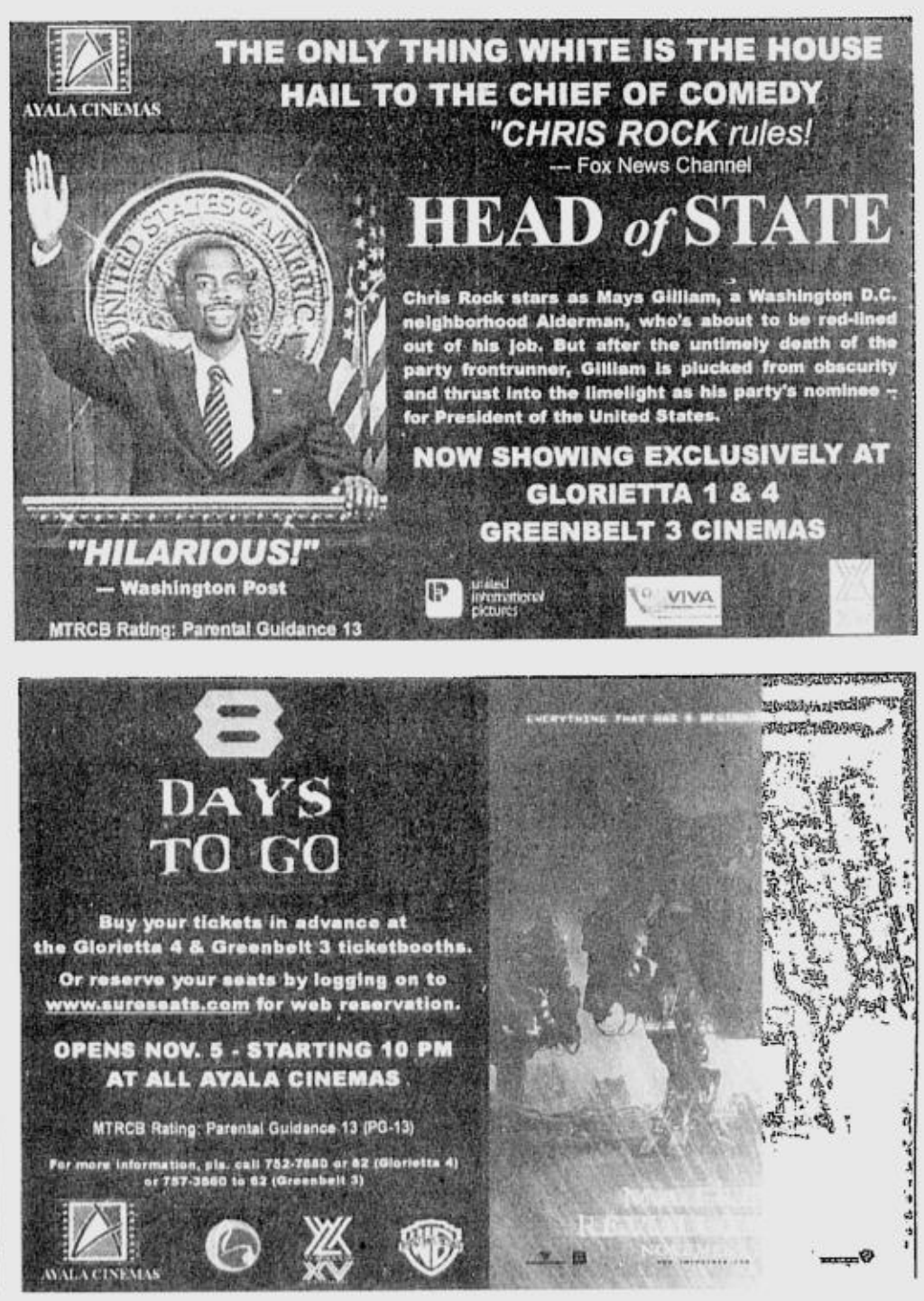
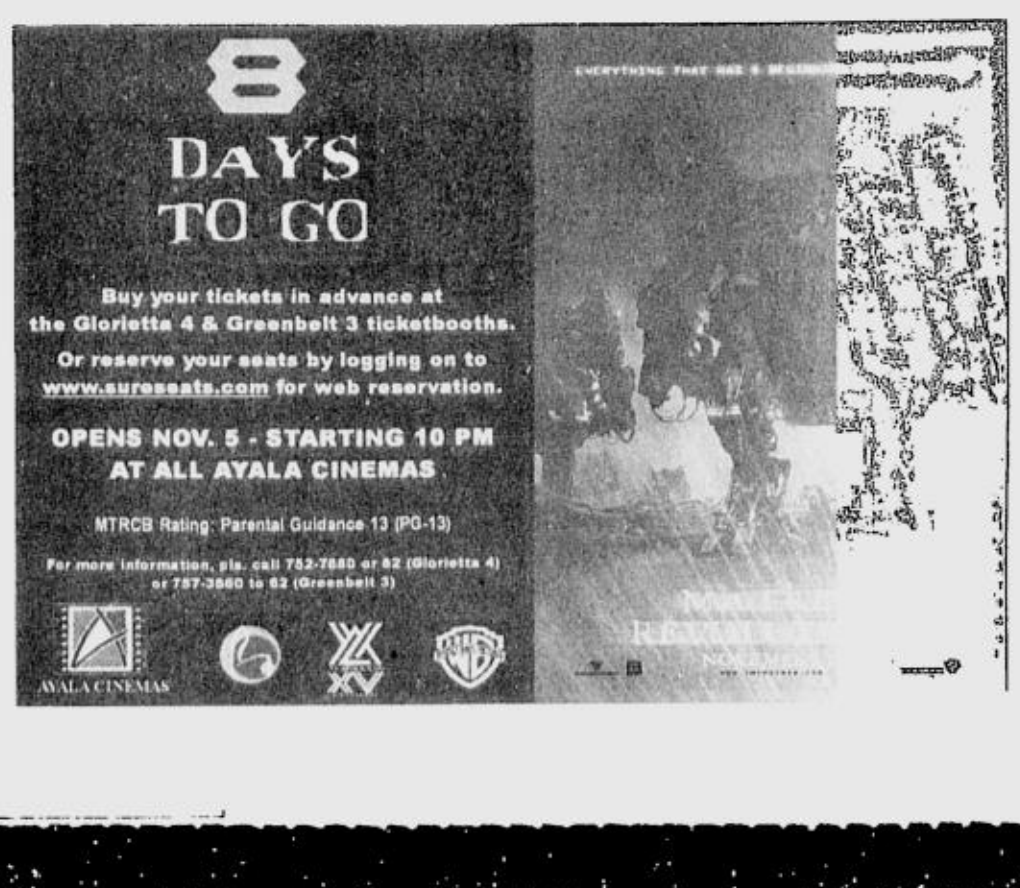




Great Things Start From Small Beginnings

"Great things start from small beginnings, growing up reach early for your dreams..."

To reach the Olympics is the ultimate goal of every athlete. To get there is no easy task. One has to dream big, start somewhere and be armed with the right skills, values, and ideals that would entail him a spot in the pinnacle of all sporting events.

One has got to have that Olympism element to turn dreams into reality. What then, is Olympism? Olympism is described as a philosophy of life, a way of living that exalts and combines into a well-balanced whole the qualities of body, mind, and spirit.

It celebrates life and everything that it has to offer and seeks to create a balance of ideals and values, sports, culture and education. Olympism is found in the MILO spirit, which MILO has been sharing to its public for more than three decades now.

It shares every child's dreams and takes delight in being part of a

family's pride as they see those dreams come true, especially with its long-running sports program such as the MILO Summer Sports Clinics, MILO BEST Center, MILO Marathon, and the MILO Little Olympics.

The Summer Sports Clinics, which started in 1982, evolved to be one of the most-anticipated activities for the summer, while the MILO Best Center, now on its 24th year enjoys the distinction of having given birth to some of the basketball icons now playing in the amateur and professional league and it continues to be the breeding ground of future basketball stars.

The MILO Marathon since it started in 1979, continues to enjoy intense patronage with an increasing number of participants in each leg being ran.

The MILO Little Olympics similarly, enjoys warm acceptance among the youth and has been one of the yearly events eagerly anticipated in the school calendar.

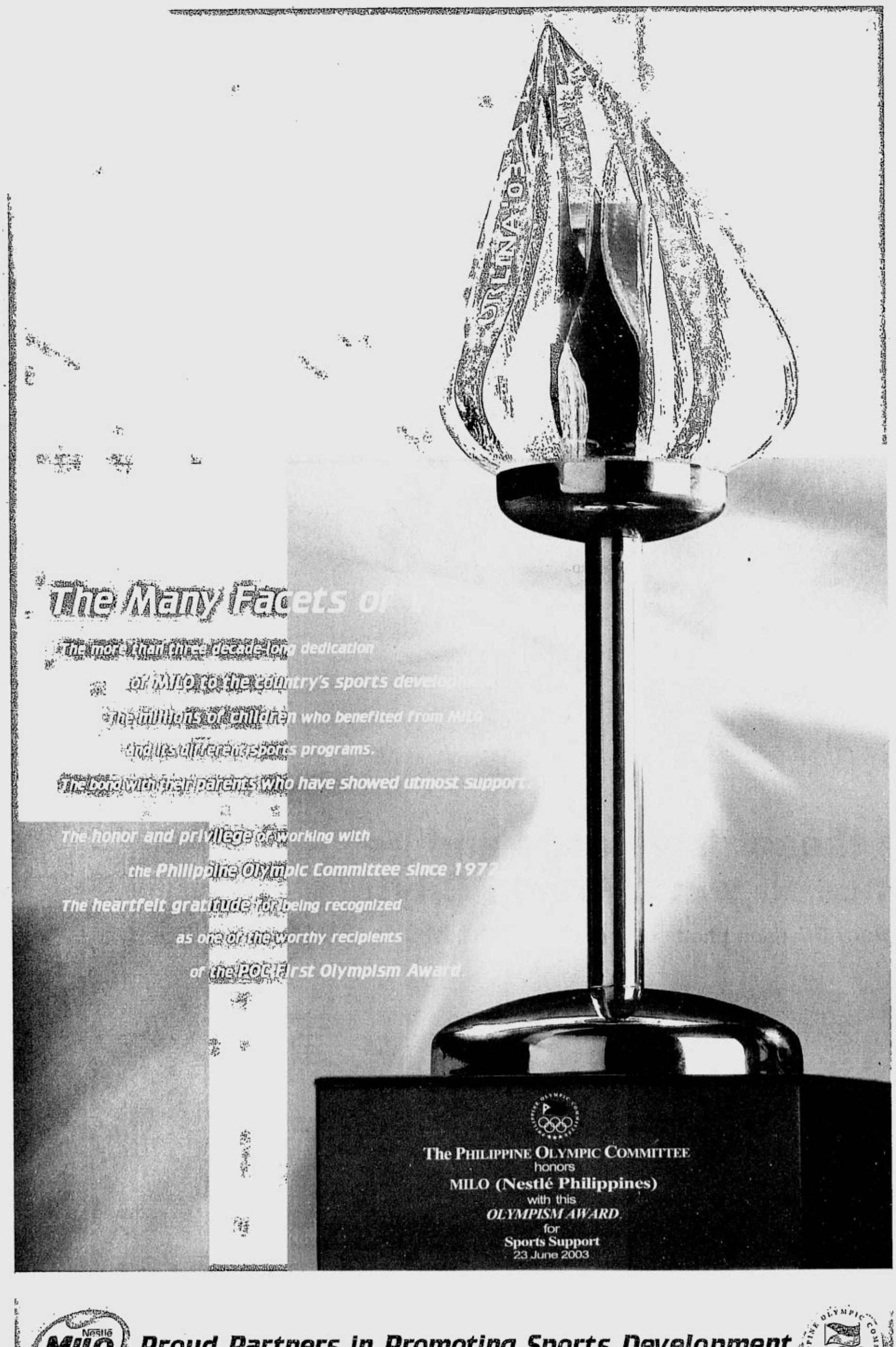
In each of these programs, MILO has given and continues to give a piece of itself and celebrates with the kids and their families the spirit of Olympism as well.

It has not only helped produce some of the country's bests, but has also made itself a partner in seeking out fresh talents that will shape and define the future of Philippine sports, and a nation of competitive, but well-grounded individuals.

With this, MILO has evolved from being a regular breakfast partner to become an all-around energy drink that could be taken any time, anywhere along with the philosophy it embraces beyond the dining table.

Because of these endeavors to promote sports development and positive values, the special commission tasked by the Philippine Olympic Committee, which included Olympian Rafael Hechanova, secretary Mar Roxas, former Mayor Gemiliano Lopez, Yolly Ong, former PBA Commissioner Emilio 'Jun' Bernardino, and Carlos 'Bobong' Velez were one in including MILO to the pioneering batch of Olympism awardees. At its simplest, Olympism is synonymous with positive ideals and discipline essential in every child's well-being.

MILO was cited along with the equally illustrious Dr. Jose C. Canlas (Sports Science and Medicine), Philippine Indigenous Games and Sports Savers Inc. (Sports and Culture), Messrs. Ramon Vecina and Alberto Garcia for sports photography, Ricardo 'Dick' Ildefonso (sports broadcasting television); Guillermo 'Willie' Hernandez (sports broadcasting radio), Gameplan (sports broadcasting television), Joaquin M. Henson (sports journalism), Julio Vargas, and Antonio de las Alas (sports leadership) Best Center Sports Inc.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

"ALL WOMEN dream of being loved," Russia's Tatyana Nikitina says and wins the crown. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

For Miss Asia Pacific, love comes before career

By Marinel R. Cruz

MISS Russia and Miss India gave similar answers to the final question about "what women really want," but the former's two major special awards helped her edge out the latter to become Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2003.

The make-or-break question was, "What do women really want?" The answer of Russia's Tatyana Nikitina: "All women dream of being loved. Career comes only second to this."

The answer of India's Shonal Rawat was quite similar: "There's only one thing that women all over the world want. This is love. And perhaps, a little bit of understanding."

Miss India ended up first runner up.

In the pageant finals held Saturday night at the Teatro Arturo Enrile in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Nikitina had earlier won two other major special titles—best in swimsuit and evening gown. Rawat won three minor awards—Miss Talent, Miss Congeniality and best in Filipino terno.

Nikitina is the first Russian to win the Miss Asia Pacific Quest title. The highest place Russia had won in the 35-year-old pageant was first runner-up in 2002 and 1999.

Rawat was only a semifinalist in the annual Femina Miss India beauty contest and was not her country's original representative to this year's Miss Asia Pacific.

The Miss India first runner-up was supposed to represent India but she reportedly had a "bad relationship" with the pageant organizers who decided not to send her to any beauty competition.

Miss Costa Rica Andrea Ovares was picked second runner-up after she gave this answer: "Women want to be have the independence and freedom to do what they want. We want to be able to go out and work."

> 'Women need love and perhaps, a little bit of understanding,' says Miss India

It was only the second time that Costa Rica made it to the final circle of five since 1998 when Kisha Alvarado won the Miss Asia Pacific Quest title.

Miss Peru Tracy Freundt, the youngest contestant at 18, was crowned third runner-up. She was also voted Miss Photogenic.

Fourth runner-up was Malaysia's Wong Wye Yeng.

Philippine representative Jamie Liz Castillo was one of the 10 semifinalists, along with the representatives of Panama, Nepal, Singapore and Columbia.

Miss Columbia Susana Montes tripped when she stepped on the train of her gown during the evening wear competition. Like Miriam Quiambao in the 1999 Miss Universe in Trinidad and Tobago, Montes stood up gracefully and kept her composure. Quiambao went home with the first runner-up crown; Montes came away empty handed.

The contestants performed in a barrio fiesta-inspired production number with the show's host, young actor Dingdong Dantes. The well-choreographed number had some of the contestants dancing the *tinikling* while others danced while carrying candles . The Hotlegs and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group backed them up. VJ KC Montero was also host, while Mikee Cojuanco was anchor.

Singer-composer Ogie Alcasid, along with the reigning Miss Asia Pacific So-Yun Kim, sang the Miss Asia Pacific theme during the opening number. Actors Epi Quizon, Jomari Yllana and Victor Neri serenaded the women who were in their evening gowns.

Miss Korea Ahn Chun-Young won the best in national costume title, while Miss Philippines won the People's Choice Award.

Miss Malaysia won the Miss Holiday Inn Manila title, and Miss Costa Rica copped the title Miss Lux 24-hour Beauty.

PERU'S TRACY Freundt is photographers' choice.

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POLYTONE: T2
WALLPAPER: C1
LYRICS: LY2

Perfect
Simple Plan
No Helmets, No Pads Just Balls
RINGTONE: N3
POLYTONE: T3
WALLPAPER: C2
LYRICS: LY3

P.I.M.P.
50 Cent
Get Rich or Die Tryin
RINGTONE: N4
POLYTONE: T4
WALLPAPER: C3
LYRICS: LY4

Happy Together
Simple Plan
Freaky Friday
RINGTONE: N5
POLYTONE: T5
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY5

So Yesterday
Hilary Duff
Metamorphosis
RINGTONE: N6
POLYTONE: T6
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY6

Moonlight Over Paris
Paolo Santos
Acoustic Night Out
RINGTONE: N7
POLYTONE: T7
WALLPAPER: C4
LYRICS: LY7

Me Against The Music
Britney Spears feat. Madonna
In the Zone
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POLYTONE: T8
WALLPAPER: C5
LYRICS: LY8

Like Glue
Sean Paul
Dutty Rock
RINGTONE: N9
POLYTONE: T9
WALLPAPER: C6
LYRICS: LY9

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BIR goes after banks for ₱6B in back taxes

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is running after banks for billions of pesos in unpaid gross receipt taxes from 1996 to 2002.

The BIR said that during the period covered, banks applied the 5-percent GRT only on 80 percent of their earnings, particularly from placements in government securities, instead of 100 percent.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said a recent Supreme Court ruling would allow the bureau to collect about P1 billion a year in back taxes from the banks.

Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said that not all banks should be required to pay the back taxes and that it could not be applied retroactively to as far back as 1996.

Parayno said the BIR in November 2002 had ordered banks to apply the GRT on 100 percent of all earnings but the banks elevated the issue to the Supreme Court. The court, however, denied the banks' motion with finality.

This year, banks were required to shift to the 10- percent value-added tax from the GRT scheme, although there were pending bills in Congress seeking the restoration of the GRT system.

The gross receipt tax system gave the government about P15 billion in revenue from the banking sector alone yearly.

The BIR said it had been waiting for the Supreme Court's go-ahead before it pressing banks to pay the back taxes.

"The high court has to issue an entry of judgment to make the decision final and executory," a BIR source said.

"I think there is a certain period wherein the BIR can issue an assessment. We believe the coverage period should be 2000 and up, except for banks that they have already assessed in earlier," said Coronel.

PARAYNO

The BAP official said the BIR might have overestimated the level of back taxes unless it already applied surcharges and penalties.

Coronel explained that the assessment covered only the banks' earnings from government securities and other commercial papers that applied a 20-percent withholding tax. On all other bank earnings, the 5-percent GRT was applied on the entire amounts.

"The issue is whether the 5-percent GRT was applicable to 80 percent or 100 percent of the earnings on loans where a 20-percent withholding tax was applied," said the BAP official.

Parayno said the BIR had written all banks to encourage them to remit the proper back taxes to the bureau and help the government shore up its collection.

The BIR chief said the bureau would likely meet its P34-billion revenue target this month but it might have a difficult time collecting P41 billion in November.

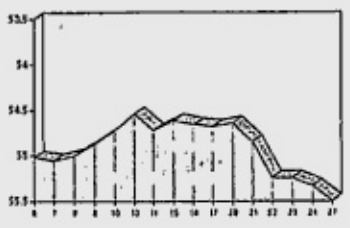
"We need to collect more from administrative measures to meet our November target which is quite substantial. We are on track

BIR / B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱55.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2003

¥108.70 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2003

GOLD: $385.80-386.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 27, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Share prices down 0.38%

SHARE prices closed 0.38 percent lower yesterday as the market continued its recent consolidation with profit-taking in select blue chips led by Ayala Corp. and Globe Telecom weighing down sentiment, dealers said.

Some investors have also opted to stay away from the market due to the continued weakness of the peso and ahead of more third quarter profit results.

Dealers said recent political developments, such as the bid to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide led by opposition members of parliament, have also encouraged investors to move to the sidelines.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index slipped 5.23 points at 1,358.17, having traded between 1,352.90 and 1,368.81.

Turnover fell to 184.42 million shares worth P343.76 million from 276.4 million shares worth P8.53 billion Friday.

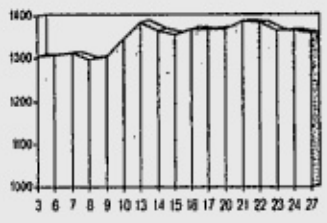
Losers led gainers 39 to 17, with 39 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index closed down 2.19 points at 821.00.

The commercial-industrial index was down 13.35 points at 1,986.15, while property was down 1.10 at 608.09. Mining dropped 28.84 to 1,576.84, while oil gained 0.02 to 1.32.

Banking and financial services gained 2.48 to 438.61. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Meralco profit up 104%

MANILA Electric Co. yesterday said its net income in the third quarter rose 103.6 percent to P574 million, from P282 million in the same period last year, due to higher sales volume.

The third quarter performance brought the company's profit for the first nine months of this year to P640 million, still 14 percent lower than year-ago level.

In a report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Meralco said total sales reached 6,157 million kiloWatthours in the third quarter or 3.8 percent higher than the 5,931 million kWh in the same period last year. Sales to commercial customers grew by 4.3 percent while sales to industrial and residential customers also improved by 3.6 percent. *Elena R. Torrijos*

T-bill rates rise across-the-board

POLITICAL uncertainties have jacked up the cost of government borrowings as reflected in the substantial increase in treasury bill yields across-the-board in yesterday's auction.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday blamed a host of political factors, including the impeachment crisis involving Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, for the increase in T-bill rates and the low turnout of bids particularly for the benchmark 91-day T-bills.

Banks usually seek a premium when investing their money in treasury papers when they can opt to use their resources in buying dollars from the spot market. The peso dropped to 55.50 to $1 yesterday.

The 91-day treasury bill rate rose 33.7 basis points to 5.966 percent, the 182-day yield went up 29.2 basis points to 7.055 percent and the 364-day rate increased by 54.8 basis points to 7.884 percent.

Unlike the six-month and one-year notes which were oversubscribed, the 91-day fetched only P2.95 billion in bids, out of which the government accepted P2.195 billion.

The Treasury's decision not to throw away bids for the 91-day treasury bill indicated that the government was pressed for cash. Otherwise, a low turnout at higher yields would have been trashed.

The Bureau of Treasury raised P7.695 billion in yesterday's auction.

Edeza also pointed to the central bank's higher overnight rate of 6.75 percent as the another reason why banks were bidding higher for treasury bills.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the government was fortunate to borrow at a rate lower than 6.75 percent.

"Anything below 6.75 percent is already a bonus for the national government," said the central bank governor who believed that treasury bill rates would likely go up to six percent in the coming weeks.

The 91-day treasury bill rate is used by banks in pricing their loans.

Edeza said the market had been lukewarm on the 91-day bills and he could not identify the reason for this sentiment. Traders said the market, worried about the prevailing political uncertainties, would rather park their funds with the BSP or use them to buy dollars.

The financial market blamed the continued weakness of the peso, unending political controversies, and the prospect of an increasing budget deficit as among the factors that prompted investors to seek a higher returns on their placements in government securities.

Since the July 27 mutiny, auction results have been erratic, with the government rejecting most of the offers submitted by banks.

Edeza said the market was looking for a clearer direction mostly on political issues. The government will bid out two-year treasury bonds today. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Manufacturing output up 7%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE VOLUME of production of the country's top 500 manufacturers gained ground in August rising by 7 percent from year-ago level due largely to strong domestic demand, according to the National Statistics Office.

The August figure was also up from the 4.5-percent growth in July.

The country's export performance remained sluggish during that month but the rise in manufacturing output could have been triggered by inventory build-up in anticipation of an improvement in the export market in the coming months.

The value of production index also rose 11.9 percent year-on-year in August but was lower than July's revised 13.1 percent growth.

NSO records showed that the volume expansion in August was brought about by the increased production performance of the following industries: basic metals, wood and wood products, non-electrical machinery, petroleum products, miscellaneous manufactures and textiles.

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DTI steps up campaign vs pyramiding operations

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said it was monitoring 36 companies suspected of engaging in pyramiding operations.

The DTI did not name the companies as it assured the suspected pyramiding firms that they would be accorded due process.

The DTI, in a statement, said these companies were asked to present their business plans and to show proof that their operations were legitimate.

"Our invitations to companies to present their business plans are based on the inquiries we receive from consumers and the general public. They are the ones who tell us of the firms they are wary of," Roxas said.

At the same time, the DTI ordered two firms accused of engaging in this illicit activity to refund the money they have taken from their members.

The DTI, in a statement, named these firms as Dream Team Prepaid Club and ITO Business Solutions Inc.

The department slapped administrative fines on the two companies. The fines, it said, were on top of the refund they had to pay to their members.

"This is part of the ongoing campaign of the DTI to protect consumers and investors from bogus companies that are engaged in pyramiding activities," Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said.

Dream Team, according to the department, had already signed an undertaking to cease and desist from implementing its business plan. It also has refunded the fees paid by its members, amounting to P155 per member. The company had started refunding its members right after it was formally charged by the DTI.

ITO Business Solutions, for its part, has also submitted an affidavit of undertaking, including proof of receipts of refund. Current members were able to get back the entry fee they paid amounting to P995 each. They also were given the option to get a sack of rice instead of cash refund, the DTI said.

The DTI has warned the public against doing business with companies that make promises of unrealistically high returns on investments.

Will the next president be Fernando, pò?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THERE are a few crazy people around and I always seem to find them. After my strange experience in a drugstore last month, I went into my bank and asked the teller to check my balance. She gave me such a violent push that I fell over. The manager was very embarrassed and explained she was a Sumo wrestler in Japan and did not understand English very well.

I then went into a pizza house and the man in front ordered a pizza for one, saying, "Just cut it into 4 slices. I do not think I can eat 6."

My daughter came home one day and said everyone was jealous of her Mummy. "Why?" I asked. Without any trace of conceit, she said, "Because Mummy has the most beautiful daughter." This is a true story. I love the honesty and innocence of children. Pity some who grow up to become politicians.

Her teacher came over one evening and related an amusing story of the 12 and 13-year olds in Grade 6. Last Christmas, the teacher asked them to bring some objects connected with this celebration. One girl brought a small tree, a boy brought some turkey, another girl brought mistletoe and one naughty boy brought a garment of feminine attire. "What is that?" asked the teacher. "It is a pair of panties," said the boy, waving them aloft proudly. "What has that got to do with Christmas?" asked the teacher. "They're Carol's," the boy replied.

ABS has paid an 8-figure talent fee for two members of F4. That is more than the government spent on C5.

Danding has just bought a pig farm in Vietnam for $36 million. It will guarantee the Senators' P200 million pork for years to come.

Hallowe'en is coming at the weekend and this is one holiday I am afraid of. Vampires like nothing better than a man with high blood pressure. Abacus Securities will be open on Friday but we will only have a skeleton staff. My mother-in-law always comes over on her broomstick, but last year she collided with an Apache. The pilot got out and by hell 'e copped 'er. My wife always wanted to be a witch but she can't spell.

What do you get when you burn a Hungarian vampire? Hungarian ghoul ash.

As there is nothing going on in the stock market, here are some more Halloween riddles pirated from my daughter's joke book.

Why do demons and ghouls hang out together? Because demons are a ghoul's best friend.

What is a vampire's favorite holiday? Fangsgiving.

Who was the most famous French skeleton? Napoleon bone-apart.

Which building does Dracula visit in New York? The Vampire State Building.

How can you tell a vampire likes baseball? He turns into a bat.

Why does a witch ride a broomstick? Vacuum cleaners get stuck at the end of the cord.

Why was the mummy so tense? Because he was all wound up.

Why do ghosts ride elevators? It raises their spirits.

What do French skeletons say before eating? Bone appetite.

* * * *

IT HAS been a boring week in the market with turnover being bloated by cross sales. On Wednesday and Thursday, 100 million AC were crossed and this accounted for a large part of the volume traded. Then on Friday, gross turnover reached an unprecedented P8.5 billion. However, this was due to a huge block sale of 12 million shares of GLOBE, bought by the company from Deutsche Telekom at P680. This amounted to P8.16 billion. UBS Warburg got two-thirds of this and the remainder was divided between the other foreign brokers. None of the commission was given to local brokers, which I find surprising, as GLOBE is a Filipino company.

In addition to the block sale, another P123 million was crossed mostly by foreign brokers, leaving actual two-way trading at P220 million. At best, local brokers got 3 percent of the trading to be divided between 150 of them. No wonder most of them have given up eating.

In the US, 75 percent of the 500 S&P companies have already reported their earnings but here, companies are so slow that only PNB has reported a small profit. Some results are due to be announced on Nov. 30, but nobody will be around to study them as offices close immediately after the market trading and all the staff will have left by 1 p.m. After next weekend, there will be many results, including TEL and GLOBE, so I will have plenty to write about. These two companies have already indicated excellent results but the 250-percent increase in TEL and 80-percent rise in GLOBE have already discounted much of this. I expect the latter to produce much better 3rd quarter results. Apart from that, I think there will be few surprises but profits should be improving and SMPH is expected to produce its usual 10 percent increase to 45 centavos a share for 2003. The shares are at their high for the year.

The Treasury has done a great job raising money to fund the budget deficit. After raising $1.05 billion the week before from 3-year and 5-year bonds, they sold a further P4 billion 20-year bonds, making a total of $1.8 billion. They should not have to raise any more money this year, but they might do so if there is still demand. It will become more difficult next year as the election approaches.

The PSE sent me an e-mail in May assuring me that there would be a bond market by the 3rd quarter. Nothing happened and at the end of September, there was a very brief statement saying that it was not yet ready and giving no indication of when it might be. Every stock market must have a bond market and in some countries, a bond market precedes an equity market.

In the US, 63 percent of companies beat their estimates by a penny or two, 25 percent were on target, and the 12 percent, which failed, were harshly treated. By next week, virtually all the leading companies will have reported and analysts will be preparing estimates for the 4th quarter. Microsoft beat estimates of 28 cents by 2 cents and gave figures for 2003, much as expected. They mentioned that sales were slowing, which was not what investors wanted to hear. The previous week,

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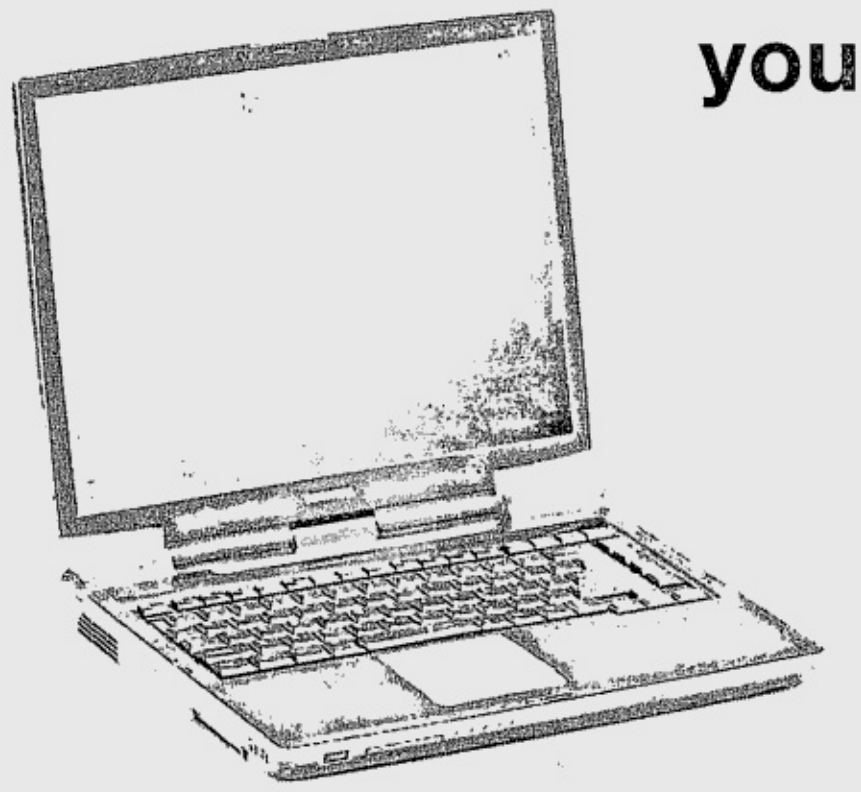

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	21,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	689,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	35,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,790,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	28	26	27.5	92,200
Philippine National Bank	27.5	27.5	27	27	68,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	11,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1580	1575	1575	7,470
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	45,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1310	1310	1300	1310	2,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	22,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	2,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	745	745	740	745	56,370
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	2,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.79	0.79	3,580,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	740	745	725	725	45,970
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.5	105,400
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.25	20	20	384,500
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	1,181,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.92	0.9	0.92	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	745,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	97,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	260,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	64,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17.25	17	17	1,107,900
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	56.5	55.5	56.5	66,800
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	238,100
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	14,523,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.4	3.25	3.4	649,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	6,460,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,550,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	260,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	51,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.75	115,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	180,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	935,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,930,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	880,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	150,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	1,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3	3	3	3	24,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.99	0.92	0.99	20,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	3,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	2,250,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	420,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	75,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,871,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	270,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	720,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.04	1.06	21,600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	1,372,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	7,380,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	2,910,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	32,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,820,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	7,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	22,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	2,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	40,000

CURRENCIES

October 27, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848896435	1.000000	55.342000
Japan	Yen	0.00776	0.009141	0.505900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438795	1.694900	93.799200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109498	0.128989	7.138500
Switzerland	Franc	0.646286	0.761325	42.133200
Canada	Dollar	0.649003	0.764526	42.310400
Singapore	Dollar	0.487564	0.574350	31.785700
Australia	Dollar	0.59509	0.701016	38.795600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.251774	2.652590	146.799600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226367	0.266660	14.757500
Brunei	Dollar	0.486167	0.572705	31.694600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021302	0.025094	1.388800
UAE	Dirham	0.231131	0.272272	15.068100
Euro	Euro	1	1.178000	65.192900
Argentina	Peso	0.298907	0.352113	19.486600
Brazil	REAL	0.296299	0.349040	19.316600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134638	0.158604	8.777500
India	Rupee	0.018768	0.022109	1.223600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223424	0.263193	14.565600
Mexico	New Peso	0.076141	0.089694	4.963800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517999	0.610203	33.769900
Norway	Kroner	0.120977	0.142511	7.886800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014817	0.017455	0.966000
South Africa	Rand	0.12311	0.145024	8.025900
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000844	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.110075	0.129668	7.176100
Syria	Pound	0.020212	0.023810	1.317700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025078	0.029542	1.634900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000532	0.000627	0.034700

SEC makes move to fight fraud

By Elena R. Torrijos

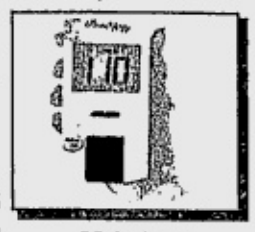
THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is exerting all efforts to qualify as a signatory to a multilateral memorandum of understanding that will address cases of market abuse and fraud.

SEC officials said the MOU proposed by the International Organization of Securities Commissions would set new international benchmarks for cooperation critical to combating violations of securities and derivatives laws.

The IOSCO MOU provides on the exchange of essential information in investigating cross-border securities and derivatives law violations, including bank, brokerage and client identification records, allowing regulators to enforce compliance with securities laws.

Signatories to the MOU would be required to establish efficient arrangements for information-sharing to address critical issues such as market abuse and fraud.

"There are two areas we are looking up to them (for guidance). One is corporate governance and the other area is really making sure we do get the right side of best practices for market regulation," SEC associate commissioner Joselia Poblador said.

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)

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Manufacturing

From page B1

Manufacturing sales likewise increased by 9.3 percent from a year ago in August, higher than the revised annual growth of 1.4 percent in July.

The average capacity utilization rate of the manufacturing sector, however, slightly dropped to 78.60 percent in August compared with 78.80 percent in July, indicating that the sector still has a lot of room for production expansion without having to put in new investments.

On a month-on-month basis, August sales value declined 0.5 percent from the July level, weighed down by the downturn in the leather and chemical products sectors.

The NSO survey covers the country's top manufacturing companies and does not include small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Manufacturing, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of the country's industrial output and a quarter of the country's gross domestic product, is highly dependent on export performance.

From January to August this year, the country's import bill expanded by 6.1 percent to $24.91 billion while exports increased by a marginal 0.2 percent to $23 billion from a year ago.

In August, alone, imports posted a sharp decline mainly due to the Oakwood military uprising which adversely affected the local industries' business plans.

The government, for its part, is relying on ab improved export performance to perk up growth in the second semester. The target is to achieve a 4.5-percent growth in gross domestic product (GDP), up from 3.9 percent in the first semester.

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We find ways
BANCO DE ORO

BIR goes after banks . . .

From page B1

with our P34 billion target for the month," said Parayno.

The BIR accounts for 72 percent of the government's annual revenue. It missed by P3.1 billion its collection goal in September.

"We are discussing the issue with the BAP. We hope that banks, on their own, would come to us and help us settle the issue of back taxes," said the revenue commissioner.

Parayno said the BIR continued to run after tax cheats to help increase its collection. The bureau is implementing an intensified tax audit, a tax amnesty (ending this month), and tax mapping to reduce the level of tax leaks.

Will the next President . . .

From page B2

Intel produced good figures and gave positive guidance for the 4th quarter but warned that this did not imply that the recovery would necessarily continue into 2004. Overall, profits are up 23 percent compared with a year ago.

On doubts about the sustainability of the US economy, the dollar has been extremely weak. The euro rose to 1.18 and the pound is almost 1.70, its highest level for many years. Nevertheless, the peso sank against a sliding dollar on rumors that FPJ would run and probably win. It this happens, there could be an exodus of money and portfolio investments. The sooner he announces his intentions, the better.

A book about the late Princess Diane is being serialized in a newspaper by her butler. In it, he explains why she had an affair with a man who groomed horses. She wanted a stable relationship. *(mrbearbull@hotmail.com)*

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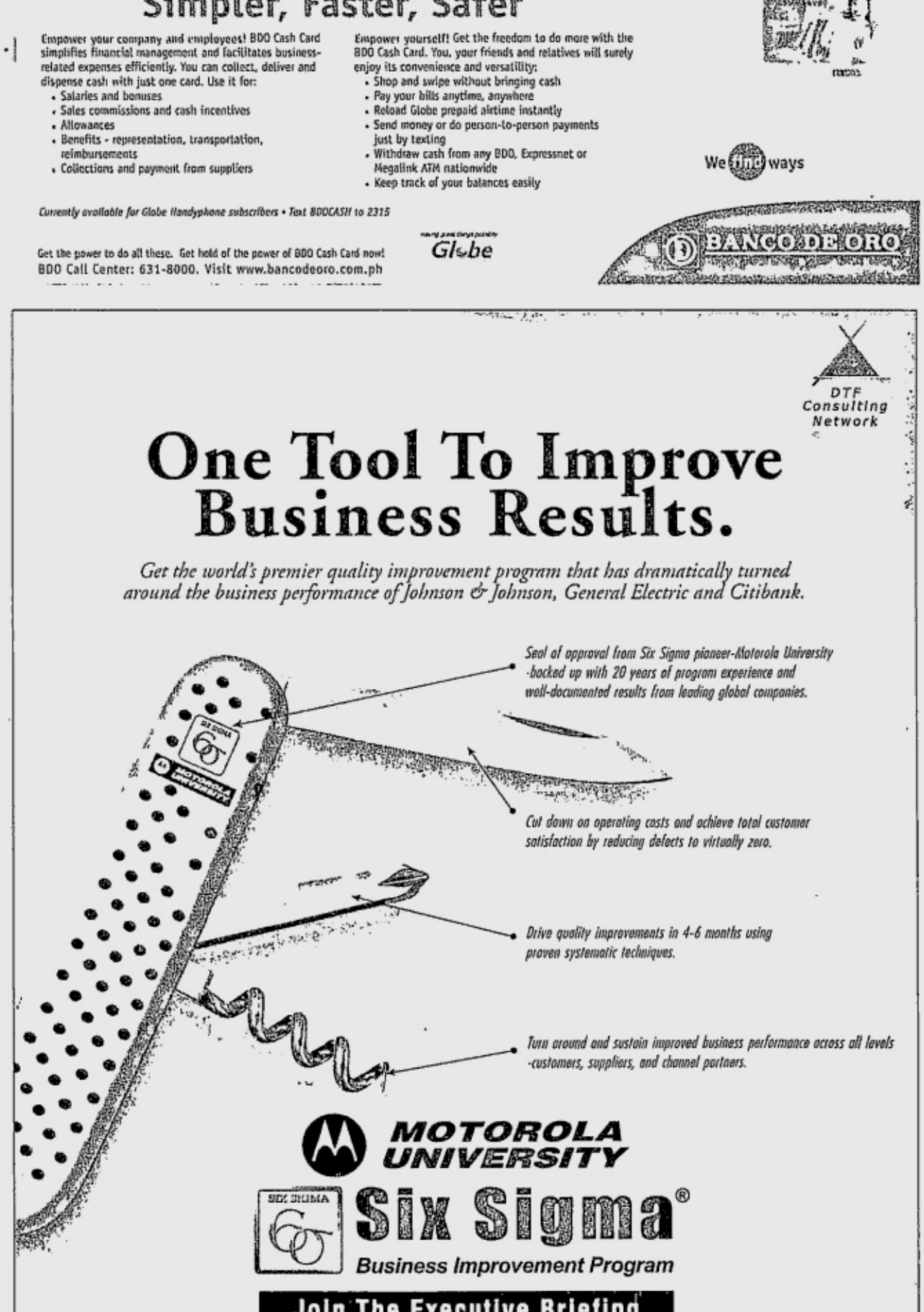

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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7 BELPHEGOR
8 THE RUNDOWN

SM CITY CEBU
2313976

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 PILYA
6 UTANG NG AMA
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 UNDERWORLD

SM CITY BACOOR
4173856

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 BELPHEGOR
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128815

1 RUNDOWN
2 UNDERWORLD
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 UTANG NG AMA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294875

1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BELPHEGOR
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 BELPHEGOR

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7-48922 • 7161816

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 THE SUSPECT
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 FREAKY FRIDAY
8 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
9 UTANG NG AMA
10 BELPHEGOR

SM SOUTHMALL
8885355

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 BELPHEGOR
7 UTANG NG AMA
8 UNDERWORLD
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9359743

1 BELPHEGOR
2 THE SUSPECT
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7158977-80

1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 THE MEDALLION
4 FREAKY FRIDAY

SM MEGAMALL
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RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6335801

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7 BELPHEGOR
8 UTANG NG AMA
9 THE SUSPECT
10 UNDERWORLD
11 BUGBOG SARADO
12 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2564302

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 BELPHEGOR
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 UTANG NG AMA

SM CITY ILOILO
3223482

1 KISKISAN
2 RESERVED
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 RESERVED
8 UTANG NG AMA

SM CITY MANILA
5399340

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 THE SUSPECT
6 UNDERWORLD
7 UTANG NG AMA
8 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
9 BELPHEGOR
10 VISIBLE SECRET 2
11 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY DAVAO
2870353

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MATCHSTICKMEN
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8580684

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4424305

OPENS Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/10:25 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:25 END

THE RUNDOWN
11:40 FS/12:10 FS/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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1 THE RUNDOWN 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30 THX
2 THE RUNDOWN 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00
3 MATCHSTICK MEN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 UNDERWORLD 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
6 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
7 BELPHEGOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 THE SUSPECT 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
10 UTANG NG AMA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS).

Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 THE RUNDOWN - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
3 BELPHEGOR - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4 UTANG NG AMA - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
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1 UNDERWORLD
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 BELPHEGOR:CURSE OF THE MUMMY
7 UTANG NG AMA
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
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8 BUGBOG SARADO

Star Mills
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MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 1
BUGBOG SARADO 2
MATCHSTICK MEN 3
UTANG NG AMA 4
UNDERWORLD 5
THE RUNDOWN 6

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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 BELPHEGOR

Bacolod
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THE RUNDOWN 1
FREDDY VS. JASON 2
THE MEDALLION 3
FREDDY VS. JASON 4
AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING 5
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 6

Iloilo
(033)336-8070 to 78

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
3 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 KISKISAN
6 TAKE MY BODY

Sta. Rosa
(049)837-0907

THE RUNDOWN 1
UTANG NG AMA 2
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 3
UTANG NG AMA 4
BUGBOG SARADO 5

Lipa, Batangas

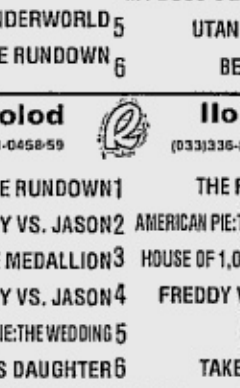
1 MATCHSTICK MEN
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 SOON TO OPEN

Malabon
288-0985/2575

1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 BELPHEGOR:CURSE OF THE MUMMY

SOON TO OPEN

DASMARINAS, CAVITE
CAINTA JUNCTION



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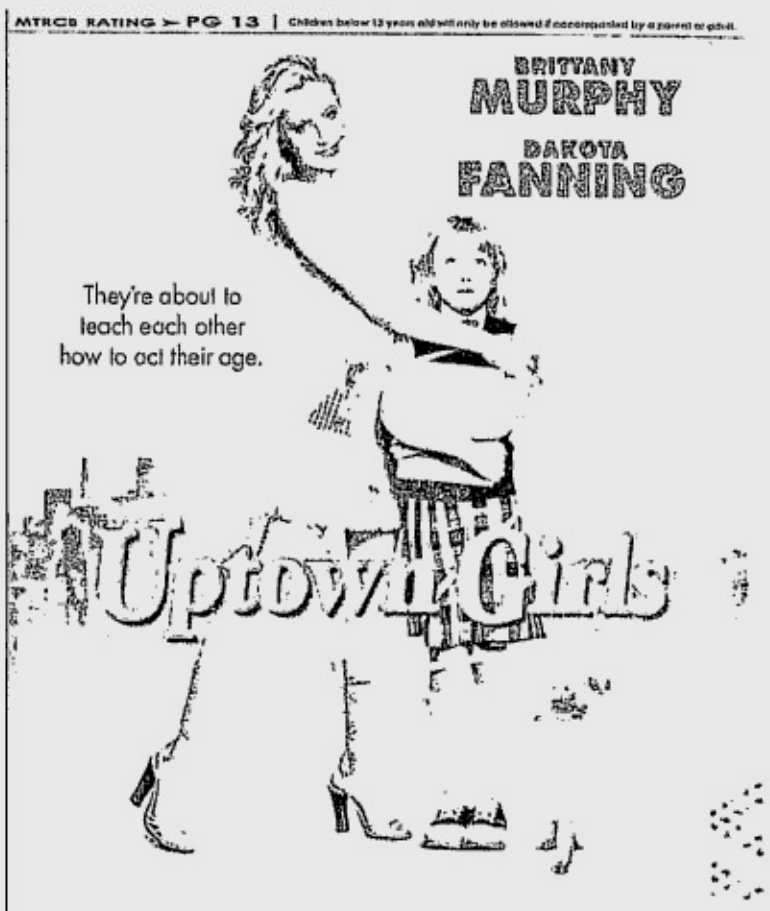

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CINEMA 1
THE RUNDOWN
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
R13

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FREAKY FRIDAY GP 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	THE RUNDOWN PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:00
MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:00, 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	THE SUSPECT R13 12:50, 3:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

ABS-CBN Treasure Hunt winners

ABS-CBN Boradcasting Corp, the country's largest network, announced the nine grand draw winners of its Treasure Hunt contest, which was held in celebration of its 50 golden years in the television industry.

The Treasure Hunt contest had two categories namely the Memorabilia Rush, were participants brought old ABS-CBN souvenir items and memorabilia, and the Go for Old, where contestants vied for the most antiquated ABS-CBN equipment, photographs and print ads.

Contestants who joined the contest came from different parts of the country and brought their entries from various eras of ABS-CBN, with items even dating back as early as 1930.

An Alto Broadcasting System print ad dated December 1953, the entry of Eufronia Burdador from Meycauayan, Bulacan won the grand prize for the Go for Old category. Burdador won a round trip for two to Universal Studios in Los Angeles, California, USA with hotel accommodations plus $500 pocket money. Other winners of this category each won a round trip for two to Cebu City with hotel accommodations and P5,000 cash. They are Regina Resurreccion from Meycauayan, Bulacan, for the oldest microphone, a D9 AT model/High 9021 (1930's); Vivian Sy from Pasay City, for the oldest moving camera, a G-8 Cinemaster II 8mm/USA (1941); Josefina Guevarra from Pili, Camarines Sur for the oldest photograph, which ws a presentation of First Opera - "Carmen", and Federico Jimenez of Kamias Road, Quezon City, for the oldest clippings, a Bolinao Electronics Print Ad (June 1953). A 1965 Mitsubishi Electric Diatron TV set of Jose Miclat from Fairview, Quezon City won a consolation prize consisting of a 29" TV set, DVD/VCD fusion, washing machine with tumble dryer, flower tower and a Hollywood patch.

For the Memorabilia Old Rush category, three winners were picked from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Theodore Pomerada from Manggahan, Pasig City won a round trip for two to Cebu City with hotel accommodations and P5,000 cash for his entry, a 1972 ABS-CBN ashtray; Isabelo Lariosa from Lahug, Cebu City won a round trip for two to Davao City with hotel accommodations and P5,000 cash for his entry, a 1963 ABS-CBN Gold Ring; and Violeta Josol Gravador from Talomo Proper, Davao City won a trip for two to Cebu City with hotel accommodations and P5,000 cash for her entry, a 1972 Tawag ng Tanghalan Grand Nationals Finals trophy.

Winners are invited to claim their prizes at ABS-CBN Broadcasting Center, Mother Ignacia cor. Sgt. Esguerra Ave., Quezon City and look for Danie Sedilla. Contact number is 924-4101 loc. 5828, email at danie_sedilla@abs.pinoycentral.com.

METROBANK IS MOST OUTSTANDING COMMERCIAL BANK

Metrobank recently received the Annual National Consumers Award (Anca) from the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP), one of the biggest and premier consumer organizations in the country, during its 14th National Consumer's Awards held at Westin Philippine Plaza recently. This is the sixth time Metrobank has received the 'Most Outstanding Commercial Bank' award from Cup. Metrobank was acknowledge for having continuously 'excelled in contributing immensely in the development of consumerism' in the banking sector. Photo shows Metrobank's E-banking division vice president Reynante Banico (2nd from left) holding the Anca statuette. Flanking him are (from left) Cup president Quirino Marquinez, secretary general Lily Nicolas and Connie Helgen.

'SAGOT KITA SAGOT KA NG PURINA' 1ST ANNIVERSARY

The Purina team visited the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to present their utmost appreciation to the agency and their staffs for being part of the TV program. Shown are (from left) Antonio Aguasin, Dr. Stefan Langer and Mark Knief of Purina, Mr. Atienza, Rolando Promentilla and Dr. Jose Molina of BAI and Dr. Jayvee Ovejera and Dr. Loren Mapua of Purina.

ProductFILES

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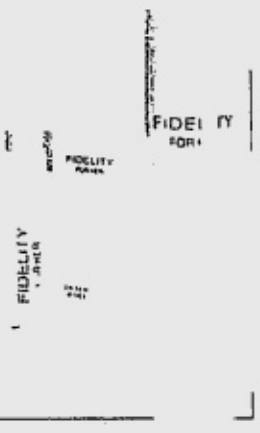

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Municipality of Margosatubig
-oOo-

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. ZDS-LGU-018-001-2003

Date: October 28, 2003

To All Eligible Contractors

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the financing of the cost of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is all open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in *the Guidelines Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
2. The Municipal Government of Margosatubig and its implementing partner, Department of Education (DepEd) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of One (1) unit - Six (6) Classrooms, Two Storey School Building in Margosatubig Pilot Training School. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must be at least Medium "A" Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence, in the English language, to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country
3. Bid documents may be purchased at the Municipality of Margosatubig with address at Poblacion, Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur, for a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 for each set. Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Municipal Hall of Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur on November 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall valid for a period of 100 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of *two and one-half percent (2.5%)* of total bid price or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to Pre/Post-qualification Bids and Award Committee (PBAC), Municipality of Margosatubig, Province of Zamboanga del Sur on or before 10:00 AM, November 28, 2003, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) DONDON VICENTE V. MINOR
Chairperson
Pre/Post-qualification, Bids & Awards Committee
Municipality of Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur

(PDI – October 28, 2003)

Clips

SJC, SJMC anniversaries

ST. JUDE College and St. Jude Medical Center mark their 35th and 53rd anniversaries respectively with a month long schedule of activities that will culminate on their Foundation Day and Feast Day of their patron saint and namesake, St. Jude Thaddeus today, where there will be a free dental and eye clinic. A mass will also be celebrated after which the school and hospital will be re-blessed followed by lunch for employees. Both institutions are located at Dimasalang cor. Don Quijote Sts. in Sampaloc, Manila.

Mr. Wash, Admiral promo

MR. WASH International Inc, master franchisor of the highly successful Mr. Wash Laundry Service Franchise has recently wrapped up its successful free Mr. Wash laundry shop franchise promo. From the period of August 1 to October 1, 2003, entrepreneurs were given a chance to own a Mr. Wash franchise simply by purchasing 3 units of the Admiral AAV1200AKW washers, 3 units of LNC8760 dryers, and 1 unit of the Unisphere Steam Wizard Clothes Steamer. Mr. Wash, in cooperation with Admiral Appliances opted to waive the franchise fee in exchange for a discounted start-up package fee of P50,000. Mr. Wash and Admiral are extending the promo from Oct. 1 until Oct. 31. For more information call Manny Martinez at 910-5074 or call the Admiral Appliances head office at 671-5955.

Celebrate Halloween at Autohaus BMW

AUTOHAUS BMW, the exclusive authorized BMW dealer will host a Halloween party entitled - "Tricks and Treats Karaoke Night". On Oct. 29, clients, visitors, club members and special guests of Autohaus BMW will indulge on delicious food, free flowing drinks and great music. As part of the Halloween celebration, guests should be in their best hats and show off their singing talents. The best singer will be given a chance to win great prizes and BMW lifestyle items. Party starts at 7 p.m. Visit Autohaus BMW at 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Bagumbayan Quezon City or call 638-0734 to 43 for inquiries.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED
RURAL BANK OF BOMBON (CAMARINES SUR), INC.

1. Starting October 28, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Bombon (Camarines Sur), Inc. (RBBI)-Head Office and Naga City Branch.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly at the premises of the said closed bank on the dates indicated below, to file claims for insured deposits:

RBBI Office/Branch	Address	Servicing Dates
Head Office	San Isidro, Bombon Camarines Sur	October 28 to November 06, 2003
Naga City	Peñafrancia Avenue Naga City	October 28 to November 06, 2003

PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Valid identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Bombon (Cam. Sur), Inc. is on **April 02, 2005.** After **April 02, 2005**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – October 28 & 29, 2003)

Employment Expo 2003 at SM Megatrade Hall

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Quezon City Branch- 912-9008 to 10 / 912-9011
Mandaluyong Branch- 635-0219 / 637-2008 635-0220 Manila Branch- 527-3342 / 528-0183 528-0186 / 528-0213
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of the late EUGENIO AGUILAR TABUENA was extrajudicially settled and partitioned with waiver of rights by the heirs as per Doc. No.370; Page No.79; Book No.56; Series 2003 before Notary Public Manuel F. de Jesus of QC. PDI-Oct. 28,Nov. 4 & 11, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATHERINA FREDERIKA UYBOCO MORANDI was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc #261 Page #45 Book #X1 Series of 2003 by Notary Public Atty. Ramon F. Aviado Jr. of Quezon City (PDI- October 21, 28 & Nov. 4 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

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PCB DRILLING/ROUTING, etc. - (10) PLURITEC Mega 4000 6 Spindle Drills (to 1998); PLURITEC Mega 4600 6 Spindle Router (2003); (3) PLURITEC Maxima 4 Spindle; PLURITEC Multi-station Single Spindle Routers; (3) BARNABY 802F Stacking m/c's; Drill Repointing Grinder; TELMEC SL Jump Scorer; SHODA AF 100 Beveling m/c; (7) SUNG RU SR V70 V-Cut m/c's; (10) Manual Routers. EXCELLON MKIV 5 Spindle Router.

PRESSING/SHEARING/SAWING - (2) TTM CT340 Vertical Auto Panel Saws; LISONG 24" Auto Edge Beveller; (2) AMADA TP110, (7) AMADA TP80, AMADA "Torc Pac" 25T, BLISS 60T Open Fronted Power Presses

PHOTO/MASK EQUIPMENT - BARCO CRESENT 40 (1999), MACDONALD DETTWILER Fire 950 Laser Plotters; MTH-30 Dry Film Laminator (2000); CH CCD Drilling m/c (1999); DUPONT Film Processor (1999); DAINIPPON LD 220-0T Film Processor; TECHNILITH 6000 Dry Film Developer; (3) ORC-680 GW (2001),(4) PARKER Circuit 5 Exposure m/c's; (4) ORC HMW 201B-5K-2 Double Sided Simultaneous Exposure m/c's (1999); (2) DUPONT HRL 24 Hot Roll Laminators; NATGRAPH Screen Drying Cabinet; (10) TA CHEN TC 6080 GL, (3) TA CHEN TC 5070 Auto Flat Screen Printers, (2) CH Auto Squeeze Polishers; (6) Artwork Cabs; (10) Light Tables

MULTILAYER - CEDAL 'ADARA' Single Daylight Hyd. Laminating Press (1996); CEDAL Multilayer Lay-up m/c w/ Copper Foil Rack; (3) BOLZONI 500 Kg Lift Trolleys; CEDAL 5 RBN Registration Bender (2000); ROSENTHAL WA-5-5-HUB Sheeter (1998); AVIO MCW 650 Super Welder (1998); UHT D2-5 Micro Cell CCD Drill (1998)

LABORATORY/INSPECTION - MORIKAWA DX 2A X-Ray Drill (2001); LLOYD DOLE Trackscan 4000 Auto Optical Inspection w/ MVS 1000 Verification Station; MITUTUYO 2-Axis Coordinate Measuring m/c; (3) UTRON 8000 HV III, (2) UTRON 8000 HV, (6) UTRON 6460H, TTI, PCB Testers; NIKON MM40 Microscope w/ Camera; ALPHA 600 SMD Ionic Contamination Tester; MET ONE Laser Particle Counter; CMI XRX Coating Thickness Tester; CMI MRX Surface Measurement Tester; GERVER GP1 Specimen Puncher; GLENBROOK X-Ray; JENWAY 6405 UV Spectrophotometer; Asstd. Pin Gauge Sets; Micrometers; Microscopes; Granite Surface Plates, etc.

WET PROCESS LINES - (2) IS PUMIFLEX SHD/A 24 (to 99); (2) IS PUMIFLEX 2000 Scrubber (to 99); (2) IS SCRUBBEX 4B SHD Scrubber/Deburrer; (2) MARSECO FRPCS 24 Flux Removal /Post Clean; MARSECO FROS 24; (2) TTM Post Clean Brushing; (2) TTM Hot Air Solder Levelling; (2) TTM Pre-HAL/Post- HAL Cleaning (1998); PAL Desmear/PTH Plating; PAL Compal PTH Plating; (2) OMIG, (2) PAL Copper Panel Plating Lines; MICROPLATE MP 80 Gold Tab Plating; PAL Black Oxide Plating; TTM Liquid Photo Solder Mask Developing w/ Acid Pre-Cleaner (2000); TTM Dry Film Developing (2000); TTM Develop Etch/Strip (2001); (2) TTM Strip Etch Strip (1999) TTM Fluxing Line

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GABINA SANTIAGO ABACAN

Widow of the late Antonio L. Abaçan, Sr.

of Meycauayan, Bulacan
peacefully joined her Creator
on October 27, 2003 at the age of 87.

Her loving children **Ray** & **Estrellita**, **Tony Jr.** & **Mary Jane**, **Lita** & **Ogie Ingco**, **Kito** & **Linda**, **Lino** & **Cecille**, **Enciong** & **Anne**, **Gil** & **Belle**; her grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan (near Meycauayan Town Hall).

Interment will be on Thursday, October 30, 2003 at the Meycauayan Memorial Park II, Pandayan, Meycauayan, Bulacan after the 3 p.m. Mass.

"Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom I delight." Matthew 12:18

Rosario "Nene" Dolot

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 25th day of October 2003 at the age of 83.

Her husband **Ulpedio**; children **Charito**, **Manuel**- **Juanita**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla San Aemiliani, Arlington East, the Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo, Pasig City.

Interment will be on October 30, 2003 at Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Pasig City.

CARIDAD G. BANGALAN-SAULOG

Died in the Grace of our Lord on Sunday, October 26, 2003 at the age of 75.

Her loving sons **Raul** & **Alejandro, Jr.**; daughters-in-law **Ma. Gloria Guadarama** & **Imelda Portes**; grandchildren **Ma. Kristina Joanna, Clarice Helene, Juan Carlo Raphael** & **Alejandro III**; brother **Salvador**; sister-in-law **Julita Camalaga**; nephews and nieces **Ma. Luz** & **Maximo Bombasi, Edilberto** & **Amelia Bangalan, Elenita** & **Cecilio Galang** & **Vivian Bangalan** request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Premier Chapel, Funeraria Sapinoso, Gen. Topacio St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 30, 2003 at the Imus Catholic Cemetery after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at Imus Cathedral.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. ANGEL P. ESTANISLAO, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 26, 2003 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Natalia**; children **Lita** & **Romy, Evelyn** & **Ante, Boy** & **Nory, Grace** & **Alex, Jun** & **Claire**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Greenmeadows, Q.C.

His remains will be cremated on Friday, October 31, 2003 at 10 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

In Loving Memory on
31ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of our dearly beloved

MARIETA JULIANO ARNAEZ

April 4, 1940-October 26, 1972

We, **Romy** & **Dart** and **Sandra, Day** & **Richard, Jumbo** & **Rachel**, and **Jet**, request all her relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

In LOVING MEMORY
of

IRENE R. CORTES

Former Dean, UP College of Law
Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

on Her 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

Masses will be offered at the following churches on October 29, 2003

UP Village-**Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**	**6:30 A.M.**
Daraga Albay Parish	**6:30 A.M.**
Naga City-Cathedral	**6:30 A.M.**
Naga City-**Parish of St. Francis**	**6:00 A.M.**
Libon Albay-**St. James the Greater Parish**	**6:00 A.M.**
UP-Diliman-**Church of the Holy Sacrifice**	**12 Noon**
Legaspi City-**Parish of St. Raphael Archangel**	**6:00 A.M.**
Naga City-Basilica	**6:00 A.M.**
Albay Cathedral	**6:00 A.M.**

Her family, nephews/nieces, and relatives request the pious reader to join them in prayer for the eternal happiness of Irene.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

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REAL ESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Comparison shopping—a practical real estate buying tool

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

MOST buyers today buy real estate by means of "Comparison Shopping." This is a way of assessing the value of a piece of property by comparing it with similar property within a certain location.

Unknowingly, this is the process that most real appraisers do when they also appraise the value of a specific type of property.

Steps in comparison shopping

Prior to looking at comparable pieces of property in an area, it is best that real estate shoppers decide on the specific location where they want to invest, how much they are willing to pay and what type of home they would prefer. There are a few steps in this process:

BUILDING DREAMS

Step 1—Decide on the location where you would want to live.

This step involves understanding the many Ps of selecting a location. The various selection criteria include place, peace and order, potable water supply, price, parks, playgrounds, public market, places of worship, etc. Each person has his/her own sets of priorities and you have to decide on the attributes that are important for you and your family.

Step 2—Assess your finances.

Prior to shopping, know how much you can really afford and how much monthly payment you can comfortably shell out. If you are a couple purchasing the property, discuss with your spouse on how you will put up the down payment and the monthly payment. This may even require giving up the many luxuries that you are used to. Be honest with yourself on the property that you want, you need and you can afford.

Step 3—Decide on the type of home.

Once you have decided on the location and the amount of the property, you may now decide on the type of home that you would want to buy. A single-detached house may offer a big garden where you and your children can play together. A townhouse unit may not be as spacious as a single-detached house but it may be very near your place of work and the school where your children go. A condominium unit may be located within the same building where you work. Or you may simply want to buy a vacant lot and build on it by asking for the services of a designer and contractor.

Choosing any of these types of homes offers advantages and disadvantages. But there is a specific type of lifestyle that will fit one.

Step 4—Shopping by comparing

In comparing pieces of property, your criteria should be clear on the things that are most important to you. The criteria should include:

Quality—During the course of visiting several pieces of property for sale, you will be able to learn what a quality house means to you and you will see poorly-built as well as well-built homes. As you learn more about the property that you would intend to acquire, list down the quality attributes that are most important to you. These can be a smooth wall, alignment of tiles, neatness of the kitchen, etc.

Cost—Comparing based on price alone can be one of the biggest traps in buying real estate. If you do this, then it is like saying that you are buying a car by the kilo. Try to list down the reasons a certain property is being sold higher than a comparable one.

Completion date—This concerns the time in which the project is to be completed. If you are buying a property in the preselling stages, make sure that the developer has adequate resources on time and at the right quality. If you feel that you do not trust the developer, then do not continue with the deal.

Safety—This can mean two things: internal or external. If it is internal, it is the safety of the house against collapse during an earthquake or against fire. External, on the other hand, is the safety of the neighborhood in which you would want to live in. Be observant on the overall security condition of the area.

Selecting the right property

It is but natural for everyone to get the best property at the lowest price. But in most cases, homebuyers would have to pay a fair price to get the best-looking property. On the other extreme are buyers who want to buy at rock-bottom prices. As a word of caution, buying a property with a very low price tag more often than not has a defect in it that will hamper its appreciation in the future.

It is better to stay away from the most expensive property or the cheapest property that is available (although there are exceptions). If you stay in the middle of the price band, you will see that your property will enjoy a higher appreciation than the most expensive or the cheapest one.

Compare before you buy.

You may reach the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.

Computerized land info management system introduced

THE COMPUTERIZED Land Information Management System (CLAIMS) has been launched by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) to speed up information gathering and decision-making on land, add value to Philippine property, and thus build up confidence in the country's real estate and help boost the national economy.

Techie P. Bautista, Creba vice president for external affairs and chair of CLAIMS, said CLAIMS uses the latest technologies in land mapping to process the technical description of a land title into a digital lot plan together with its relative position in the provincial, city or municipal and barangay levels, and shows the road network surrounding the property.

Global marketing

Creba, led by national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and board chair Manuel M. Serrano, is a nationwide organization of developers, builders and professionals directly or indirectly engaged in property development and marketing.

It has recently organized the Creba International Federation to form international chapters which will aggressively engage in the global marketing of Philippine property. Purita R. Soliven, Creba executive vice president, is the federation president.

Prepared document

Bautista said CLAIMS will certainly add value to Philippine property. "Finally we now have a credible and professionally prepared document to present to our investors. It is fast, accurate, economical and affordable."

The CLAIMS report, she said, also provides information on income class, zonal value, population density, topography and elevation, soil or rock formation, flooding and earthquake susceptibility. Bautista said, it will also show the presence of utilities and amenities such as water, electricity, cable TV, landline and wireless telecommunication, schools, churches and hospitals.

CLAIMS, the Creba official said, will therefore relieve interested industry and professional parties and the public of tedious and time-consuming data gathering from various government offices. It is already a compilation of official government data on land, certified by a geodetic engineer.

Off-site audit of property

CLAIMS "will definitely fast-track your decision-making process," Bautista stressed. "No need to go to the site just to determine the relative value and characteristics of a property. Creba has put together data considered pertinent to the real estate businessmen and stakeholders in assessing a property."

Moreover, she said, CLAIMS is nationwide to make it possible for them to "appreciate properties outside the metropolis or even in the rural areas, without traveling there. It allows you to do an off-site audit of the property under consideration."

She added, "Just fax or send us the technical description of your lot and we will have the report ready in three working days."

Interested businessmen, professionals and the buying public may contact the Creba secretariat at the third floor of the Creba Center, Don Alejandro Roces Ave. corner South "A" St., Quezon City, Tel. No. 373-2264 to 73, and fax 373-2271 and 74, e-mail address at creba@globe.com.ph. and website at www.crebaphils.com.

Finding the ideal place a reality at the heart of Quezon City

SEEKING the perfect home is a daunting task, as requirements such as safety, accessibility and artistic value don't often come together in a single, convenient package. For young couple Edgar and Luisa Ventanilla, these are of paramount importance. Their seemingly futile search eventually led them to Montgomery Place, which is situated in the heart of Quezon City.

What greeted them far exceeded their preconceived notions. This is one of Ayala Land's forays into premium townhouse development projects, which, the couple thought, was perfect for their specific needs. They immediately made a reservation and purchased the unit they fancied, considering it among those opportunities that are few and far between for house-hunters.

Advantages

Edgar cites the advantages of their new residence: "Having a place at Montgomery answers all our concerns: accessibility, security, cleanliness and community. Ayala Land has provided us with all the things that we are looking for in a home. It has given us more than what we expected."

Montgomery Place is a community of townhouses inspired by the distinct look of elegant yet functional architecture of American South residences. Their high-pitched roofs, panoramic windows, and tall ceilings create spacious areas, both in their interiors as well as on their cool-hued façades. The fine merging of landscaping and hardscaping adds to its visual complexity. These design elements easily connect with prospective buyers, as they did with the Ventanillas.

It is conveniently located in a 7.5-hectare lot on E. Rodriguez Avenue, and is within a short distance of the finest medical, business and commercial centers. Schools are also within close proximity. "Our main priority is the school of our three children. It's not only the place near our home. My wife's office is just five minutes away," Edgar claims.

Serene atmosphere

An attractive bonus, according to Edgar, is Montgomery Place's serene atmosphere. "Since we are a close-knit family, another factor that we considered is to have a place where both our families and friends can gather every weekend. And believe it or not, they would love to stay longer every time they're here. In fact, they do not like to leave the place anymore because they find this place peaceful and relaxing," he explains.

One can conveniently leave all the stress of urban living at the gate, according to Luisa, a businesswoman. "When you enter the place, all your worries and stress for the day are gone. You'll never imagine that there's a place like this in Quezon City. This is also how we describe the place to our friends who have not come here before," she says, adding, "Now, they're the ones who proudly describe the place to their friends and families as well."

YOUNG couple Luisa and Edgar Ventanilla

Security

The Ventanillas moved into their new home last June. From the outset, they observed that Montgomery Place puts a premium on security.

"Aside from the guards at the entrance gate, there are also roving guards. That is why we are confident to let our children play outside. The security team is very responsible and friendly," Edgar shares. "We also have an efficient administration team. Just list down all the things you need to be fixed in the house, and they'll respond and attend to them right away," he adds.

As one of the first families who moved in, the couple is grateful for having amiable neighbors as part of the growing community. "They were there when we invited them to attend our son's first birthday. We celebrated it in our Townhall and we're glad to know them," she says. After that event, their neighbors' children went to their house to play with their kids, and vice versa.

Community clubhouse

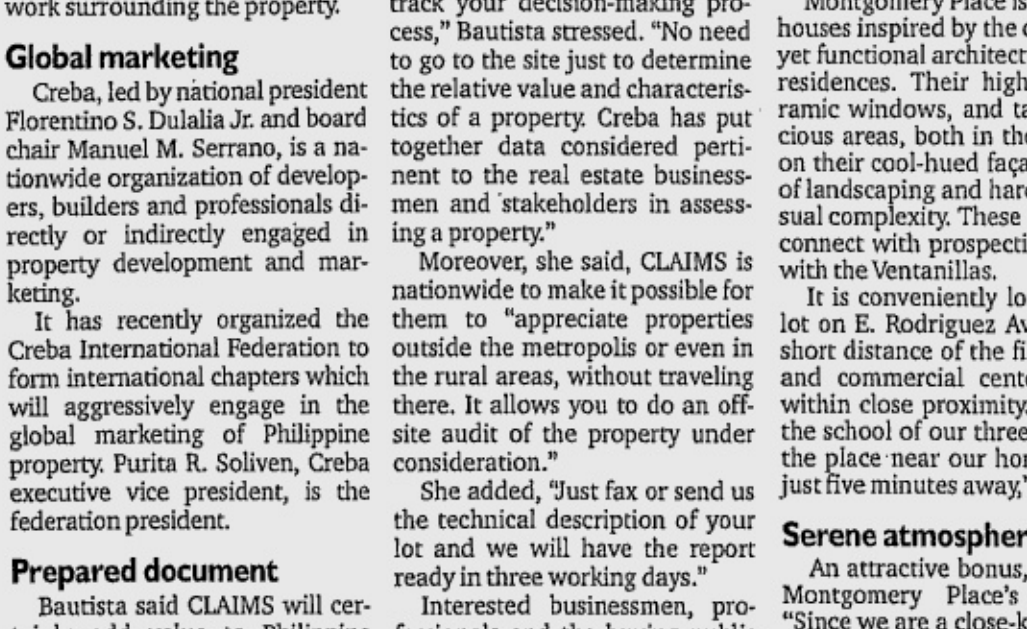
The Townhall is Montgomery Place's two-story community clubhouse that houses recreation and relaxing areas such as function rooms for various occasions, a social hall, a park with playground equipment, and an adult and children's pool. Other amenities in the works include a basketball court. The Birmingham Park is also being developed along with other pocket parks, further adding a valuable touch of green within the vicinity.

"Our children enjoy staying there. They were the first ones who used the pool. My son and I also recently celebrated our birthdays there," Edgar enthuses. He also suggests that one needn't go out on special occasions, as it is a very conducive venue for spending quality time with the family.

Wise investment

The couple believes that buying a house at Montgomery Place is one of their best investments, acquiring it through one of Ayala Land's financing schemes: "Instead of paying out rentals for the house, this wise investment makes you more excited because you see where your money and labor go—to a wonderful house that is rightfully yours."

The proud homeowners claim: "At Montgomery, we have found our place. This is our dream house and we will be here for the longest time."



ARCHITECT'S perspective of the main gate

Cuevasville starts housing project

CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp. is embarking on an ambitious residential-commercial subdivision project which it envisions to be at par with those of the leading real estate companies in the country.

Ambassador Felimon Cuevas, chair and chief executive officer of the Cuevasville Group of Companies, said the company's first foray into the subdivision business officially started on Saturday with a groundbreaking ceremony at Daang Hari Molino, Bacoor, Cavite.

Array of basic facilities

He said Cuevasville subdivision offers an array of basic facilities and amenities that are centrally located within the subdivision rotunda. Phase 1 of the entire subdivision has an inventory of 252 residential lots with varying sizes and 10 commercial lots fronting Molino's major thoroughfare.

The subdivision is well-planned such that communities have easy access to jogging trails and a multipurpose hall equipped with children's playground.

Affordable

Cuevasville offers the opportunity to plan, design and build your own home at a very affordable price with cuts ranging from 90 to 226 sq.m for residential and 226 to 793 sq m for commercial lots.

The super mall will sit on an 8,400-sq m lot on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway. It will feature first-class amenities including state of the art cinemas. Its basement parking can accommodate hundreds of cars for added consumer convenience.

Philcemcor changes name to Cemap

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers' Corp. (Philcemcor), the industry association of the country's local cement manufacturers, announced it has changed its official name to Cement Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines or Cemap.

The change in name, according to Cemap officers, is intended to synchronize the evolving face of the industry with an image that now reflects the many various achievements and directions of its individual member-companies in terms of product quality and innovation, social development, and environmental protection.

New phase

"We've entered an exciting new phase in the development of the local cement industry," said Felix Enrico Alfiler, president of Cemap. "Through trials and difficulties, the whole of this organization is now greater than the sum of its parts. Our updated identity, I believe, will highlight our progress and ongoing transformation."

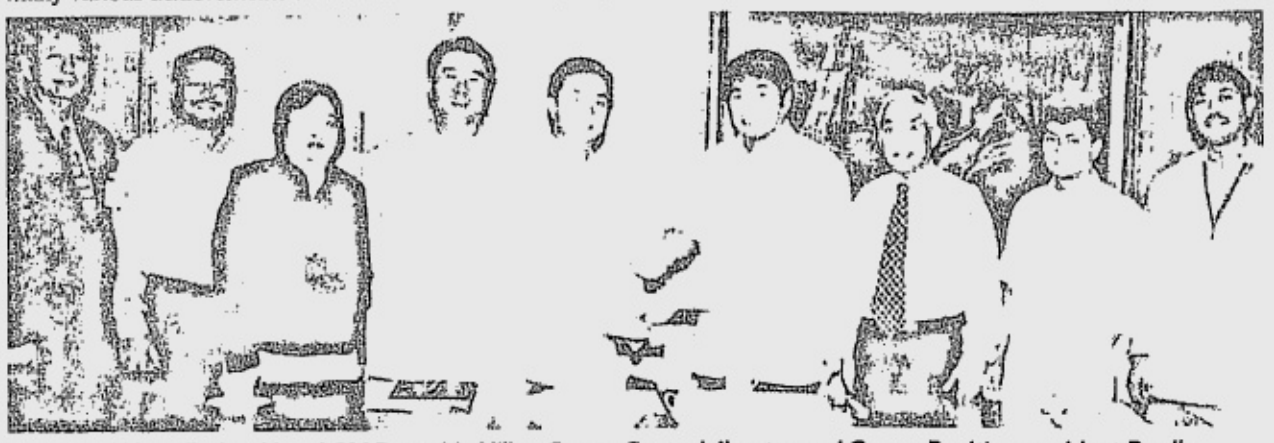
Changing the name from Philcemcor to Cemap depicts that transformation which appropriately reflects members' vision of creating a meaningful impact as a true partner in nation-building and economic development.

"The change also renews our commitment to serve our public, develop our industry further, and play a significant role in nation building," added Alfiler.

Composition

Cemap is composed of Alsons Cement, APO Cement, Continental Operating Corp., Fortune Cement, FR Cement, Grand Cement, Iligan Cement, Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp., Mindanao Portland Cement, Northern Cement, Pacific Cement, Republic Cement, Solid Cement and Union Cement.

Cemap's logo features a tridimensional block symbolizing the solid foundations of the organization and an arc of the horizon, symbolizing a proactive image and the expanded vision of Cemap as an organization.



FROM LEFT are Federal Land GM Reynaldo Villar, Crown Central director and Crown Equities president Danilo Venida, Federal Land SVP Jocelyn Kho, Crown Central director Jerry Angpin, Federal Land president and CEO Alfred Ty, Sta. Lucia Realty president and CEO Exequiel Robles, Crown Central presient Andres Borja, Sta. Lucia Realty project director Bobby Gonzales and Federal Land legal counsel Sergre Mario Iyog.

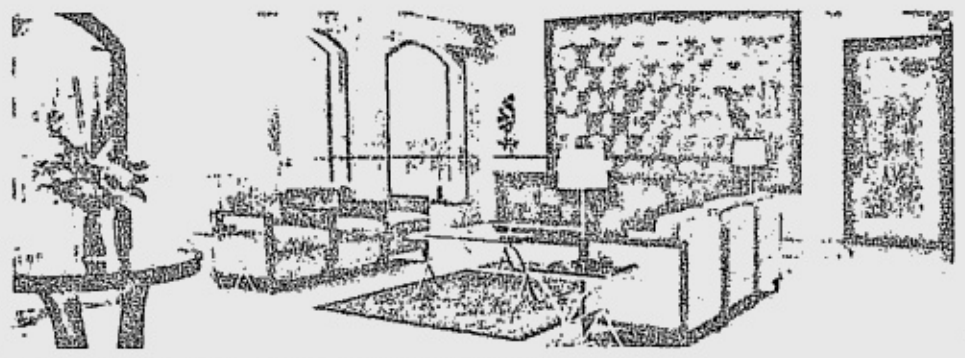
Sta. Lucia teams up with Crown Central to develop Biñan subdivision

REAL estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. recently signed an agreement with Crown Central Properties Corp. for the development of a residential subdivision in Biñan, Laguna.

CCPC, a joint venture between publicly listed Crown Equities Inc. and Solid Share Holdings, disclosed that the joint project involves Sta. Lucia's development of CCPC's 28-hectare property into a middle-class residential enclave within three years. The subdivision, located near the boundary of Sta. Rosa and Biñan, is also a few meters away from such exclusive schools as Don Bosco, La Salle and St. Scholastica's.

The Biñan venture further strengthens Sta. Lucia's stance in the industry—with first- and medium-class residential subdivisions totaling 3,000 hectares nationwide.

Sta. Lucia VP Vicente R. Santos is doubly excited about their first tie-up with CCPC. "We are proud to team up with such a prestigious real estate and its allied companies," he exclaims. "Crown Central is a subsidiary of Crown Equities, and Federal Land is a member of the Metrobank Group. We hope that this creates a ripple effect and eventually lead to even bigger partnerships in the near future."



EASTWOOD LAFAYETTE 3 LOBBY COMPLETE

Premier home developer Megaworld Corp. has unveiled the deluxe lobby of the third and last tower of the Eastwood Lafayette residential development in Eastwood City, a mixed-use urban complex in Quezon City. Showcasing an elegant, contemporary design, the lobby boasts a reception counter in woven veneer, black granite and stainless steel. It is furnished with sleek lounge chairs and glass-topped consoles that complement its modern theme. The walls are finished with large panels of beige marble slab, while the floor features striking art deco accents.

Boom na Boom complex attracts business locators

THE REDEVELOPMENT of Boom na Boom complex from a purely Christmas carnival into a mixed-use entertainment and lifestyle destination has shifted to full gear with the recent entry of new locators in the area, including specialty restaurants Pier 1 and Marina.

Also making a debut this year at the Boom na Boom complex is Boom Camp, a popular paintball field and team-building camp run by the Global Adventures Marketing. The place is now being readied in time for the formal opening next month.

Favorite haven

Pier 1 Bar and Grill, known for its lively entertainment and exciting food and drinks, is a favorite haven for the young set, but is also frequented by business people looking for a relaxed dining and entertainment venue. Its Boom na Boom outlet had its soft opening last week and is an instant hit based on the huge crowds flocking there since.

Marina, on the other hand, is also a dining and entertainment destination that specializes on fresh seafoods and distinctive Ilonggo cuisine. It has branches in Metro Manila, Iloilo and Cebu City but its outlet at Boom na Boom will serve as the flagship branch because of the sheer size and central metropolitan location.

Another major locator is also set to start construction at the complex anytime soon, according to Haydee M. Kwan, Boom na Boom's director general. However, she said the nature of business of the new locator is still kept under wraps for strategic reasons.

Signature amusement park

Despite the new businesses moving into the area, Kwan said that the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. or Petco, which operates the Boom na Boom complex, will still have its signature amusement park, now known as Boomland.

Kwan said Boomland will open on Nov. 29 in time for the Christmas season, and will still feature the well-loved rides and attractions that have been its trademark for the past 14 years. Although much smaller in area now, Boomland has retained all its major rides and will be offering much more excitement than before.

An international bazaar of Christmas giveaways, food carts, snack bars and entertainment numbers will also be among the regular features of Boomland for this year, Kwan said.

The transformation of the sprawling 11-hectare Boom na Boom complex into a mixed-use development started last year with the entry of Boom Kart Trak, a racing track that offers karting aficionados as well as beginners an accessible and professionally-run venue for exciting and friendly races.

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BUSINESS

RP should ink trade pact with US, expert says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES should take on the challenge of competing in a global free trade economy and see it as an opportunity for local industries to grow, international think tank Wallace Business Forum told businessmen yesterday.

Peter Wallace, president of Wallace Business Forum, said one of the reasons why the Philippine economy has lagged behind its Asean counterparts, such as Thailand, was due to the government's reserved stance on liberalization.

"It's a matter of choosing whether we want to be world competitive or become a backwater," said Wallace in a forum on free trade agreement held yesterday at the Dusit Hotel.

Wallace said the Philippines would reap benefits from engaging in free trade agreements—such as one with the United States—if only it would maximize the potential of its industries where it has a comparative advantage.

He said the five industries that the country should fully develop and force to be fully involved in FTAs include agriculture, mining, information and communication technology, tourism and care-giving.

He said the Philippines should dismiss the idea that opening up the economy would be detrimental to local businesses.

He cited the case of China, whose economy grew after it decided to open its doors to foreign competition following its entry into the World Trade Organization.

Ponciano Intal Jr., executive director of Angelo King Institute for Economics and Business Studies, agreed that the Philippines should seriously consider the proposal to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States.

"It's high time to see the RP-US FTA (free trade agreement) proposal (from the point of view of) trade facilitation, institution building, technology upgrading and industry competitiveness facilitation and not merely from that of market access and loss of protection (of local industries)," said Intal.

He, however, said the country should exert efforts to make local industries become internationally competitive and prepared for further liberalization.

He added that one key to benefit from an FTA with the United States is the willingness of the government and the private sector to invest in the upgrading of technology and skills of workers.

He said the Philippines could improve its competitiveness by improving infrastructure, easing foreign ownership restrictions and formulating a common policy on investment and competition.

ERC to enlist COA help in Meralco audit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission plans to ask the Commission on Audit for help in checking the accuracy of the disbursement of the Manila Electric Co.'s multi-billion-peso refund to its customers.

ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said in an interview that the regulatory body has to enlist COA's help as it does not have enough resources to conduct the audit on its own.

"We hope that the COA would help the ERC as it had in at least one other occasion," Sanchez said.

The official said the ERC planned to have the P30-billion Meralco refund audited in phases.

"The ERC has just received the last report from Meralco on Phase 2. We want our own appreciation of (the proceedings)," he said.

Meralco completed the refund of overpayments made by so-called active accounts covered under Phase 1 in July.

These accounts cover residential and general service (RGS) customers who used 100 kWh or less in April.

These accounts number 1.7 million, representing P2.1 billion in refund money.

Meralco still has to refund a fifth of the customers covered by Phase 1—those with terminated accounts—accounting for some P400 million.

The utility is currently implementing Phase 2, which covers RGS costumers who used between 101 kWh and 300 kWh or 2.2 million accounts with P4.6 billion in claims.

Meralco's chief of the refund management task force Leonardo Mabale said earlier that the company had settled 458,000 claims under Phase 2 as of end-September.

Premiere buys majority stake in Nextmobile

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STOCKHOLDERS of listed movie and entertainment outfit Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. have approved the acquisition of a 97 percent stake in wireless service provider Nextmobile Inc.

The acquisition would be effected through a P6.58-billion share-swap deal, paving the way for PEP's entry to the lucrative telecommunications business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PEP president Anastacio Diaz said the shareholders likewise approved the change in the company's capital structure in their meeting last Friday.

The restructuring would facilitate the acquisition of the controlling stake in Nextmobile in exchange for shares of stocks in PEP.

The corporate name would be changed to Next Communications Inc. to reflect the change in its main line of business.

In line with the backdoor listing, the stockholders ratified amendments to the company's articles of incorporation.

These included a decrease in the authorized capital stock to P500 million from P1 billion.

The company will then increase the authorized capital stock to P7 billion.

NextMobile, owned and controlled by businessman Mel Velarde, operates the Nextel radio-phone network.

NextMobile, meanwhile, is taking over a 70-percent interest in cash-strapped telecommunications firm Capitol Wireless Inc.

Security Bank to issue peso notes worth ₱2.5B

By Elena R. Torrijos

SECURITY Bank Corp., a medium-sized publicly listed commercial bank controlled by businessman Frederick Dy, plans to raise P2.5 billion in tier two capital through the issuance of peso-denominated debt notes.

Market sources said the local bank has tapped ING N.V. as underwriter of the debt issue.

It would only be the second peso-denominated tier-two qualified notes if it pushes through.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. had raised P5 billion through the issuance of similar notes over two months ago.

Security Bank has a capital base of P10.225 billion based on its published statement of condition as of Sept. 19, 2003.

Assets, on the other hand, amounted to P68.822 billion with net loans of P32.266 billion.

The bank also had non-performing loans worth P4.756 billion, which was equivalent to 11.26 percent of its total loan portfolio.

Security Bank earlier reported a 76 percent jump in earnings in the first half of this year to P475 million from P269 million in the same period last year on the back of trading gains, reduced operating expenses and efforts to generate new revenue streams.

The bank had said its first half profit was achieved despite a move to set aside P489 million for loan loss provisions.

The additional reserves had brought the bank's non-performing loan cover to 56 percent as of end-June this year from 50 percent at the end of last year.

The bank said it would continue rationalizing its branch network to trim operating costs.

The bank would likewise launch new corporate and retail cash management services, build on its insurance distribution with joint venture partners Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. as well as promote its new credit card brand.

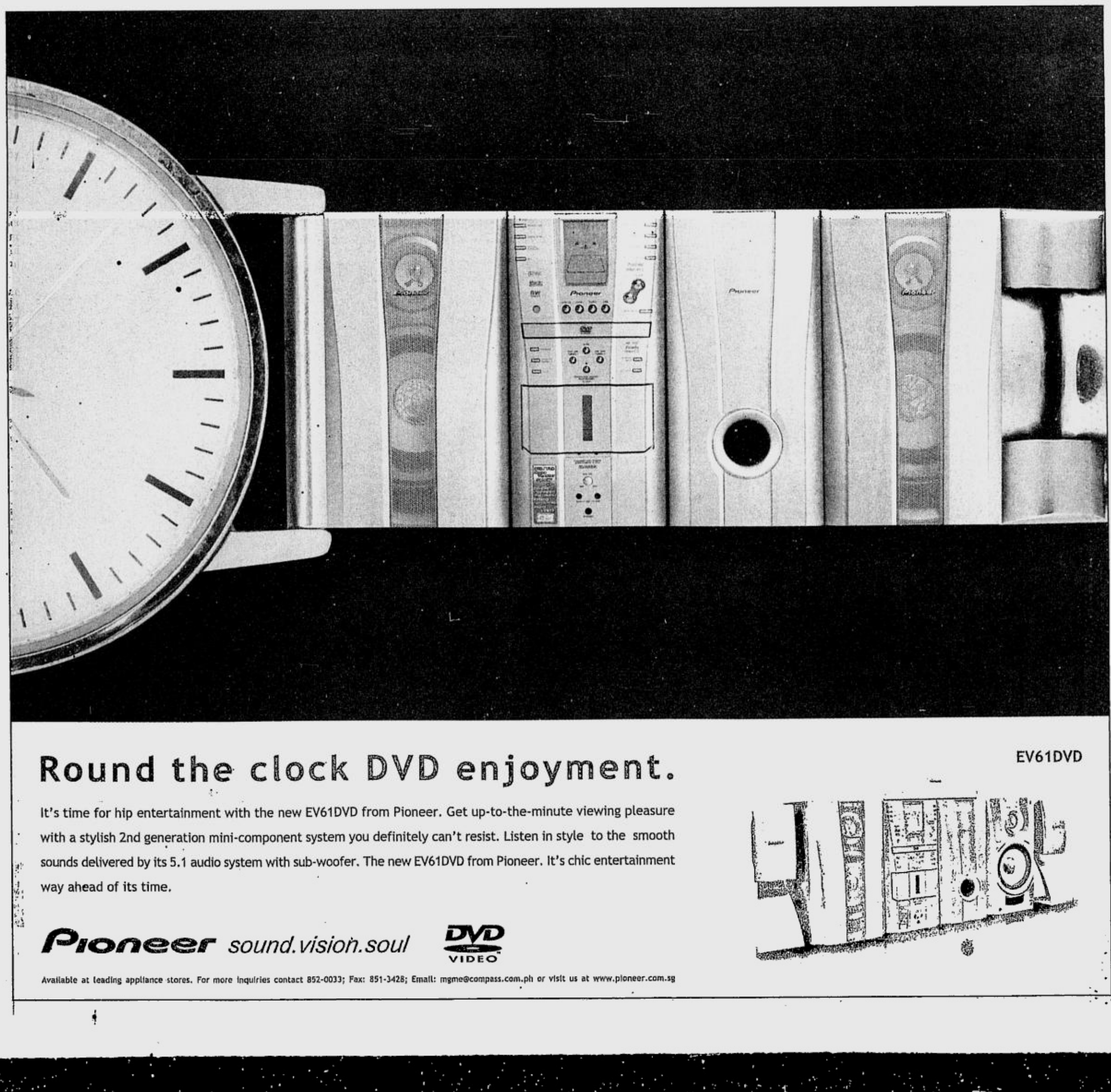

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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Calories still count

IN THE PAST 50 years, the three major nutrients—fat, protein and carbohydrates—have been playing musical chairs in the diet game. Depending on the decade, each nutrient has been either blamed for causing weight gain or praised for causing weight loss.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Currently, protein and fat are in favor while carbohydrates are ostracized. But is it really the composition of the diet that is responsible for weight-loss success, or is it ultimately the amount of calories consumed?

Dr. Robert Atkins claims in his books, "The New Diet Revolution" and "Doing Atkins," that his diet has "metabolic advantages" that allow you to eat as much as you want without any limits and still lose weight as long as you strictly limit carbohydrates. He says that people can eat as many or even more calories than they ate before starting his diet and still lose weight.

In the 1972 edition of his book, Atkins claims you don't have to count calories because calories don't count; what really matters is counting carbohydrates.

In his 1999 version, he does concede that calories count, but only if you are eating carbohydrates together with fat. He writes, "It is true that gaining weight results from taking in more calories than you expend. But excess calories certainly cause you to pile on the pounds only when you are eating a lot of carbohydrates along with fat. So it's time to abandon the assumption that the only way to lose weight is to strictly control your intake of calories."

Attracted

There is no denying that people are attracted to the Atkins diet because of the promise that "you can eat as much as you want, as often as you want."

Is this promise true? Are people on the Atkins diet really eating high-calorie meals and still losing weight because of the "metabolic advantage" of eating mostly protein and fat? Or are they eating a low-calorie diet in disguise?

This was something that Stanford University researcher Dena Bravata with colleagues from Yale University wanted to find out when they conducted an intensive review of 107 low-carbohydrate diet studies dating from 1966 till February 2003.

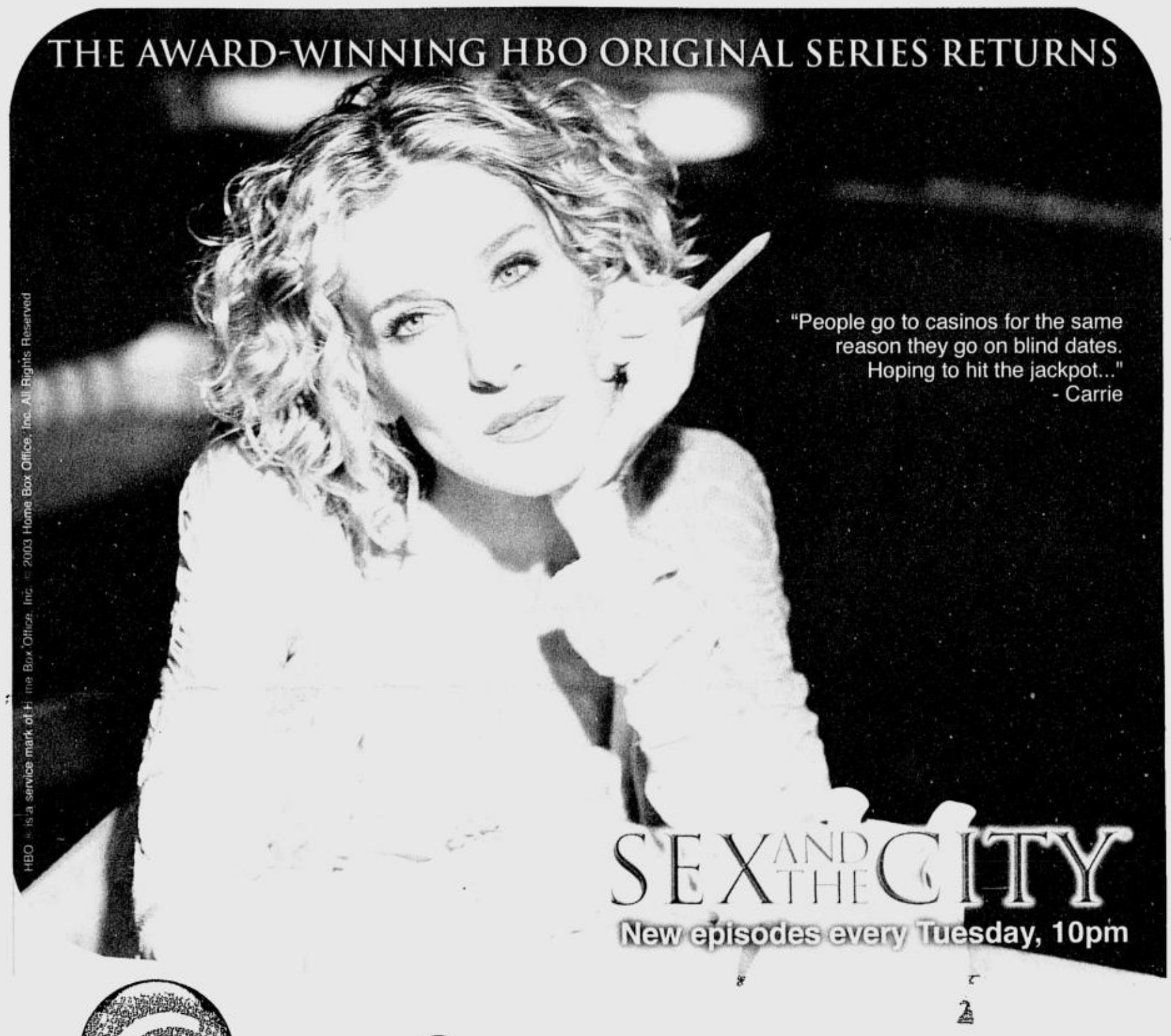
The study was the first of its kind and was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in April this year.

Her conclusion was, "While these diets are effective in the short term, weight loss results from reduced calories, not carbohydrate restriction."

The researchers found that people on low-carb diets (60 grams of carbohydrates or less) lost weight because their diets were low in calories, not because they were abstaining from carbohydrates. The greatest weight loss occurred in people who were the heaviest and who ate the lowest amount of calories.

"The greatest predictors of weight loss appear to be caloric intake and diet duration," Bravata says. "The findings suggest that if you want to lose weight, you should eat fewer calories and do so over a long

CALORIES/ C2



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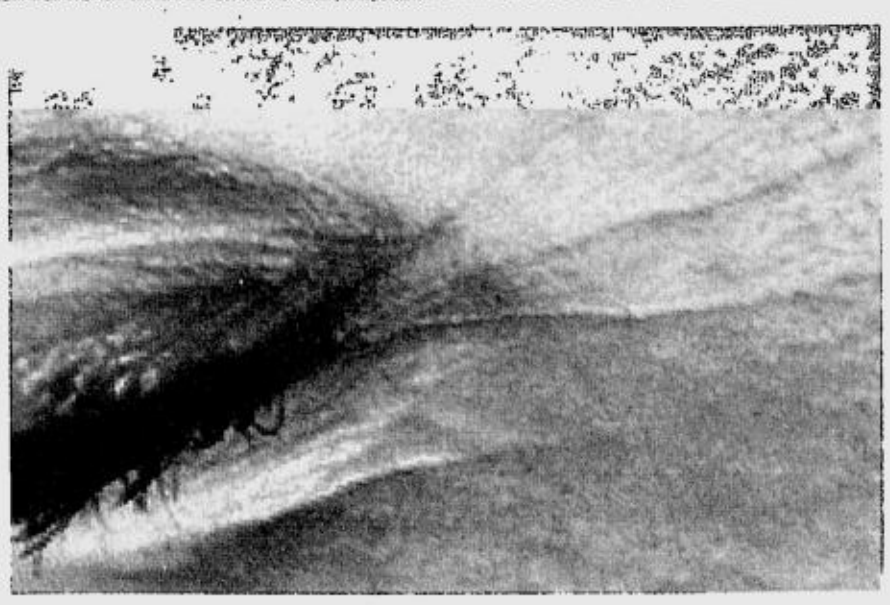
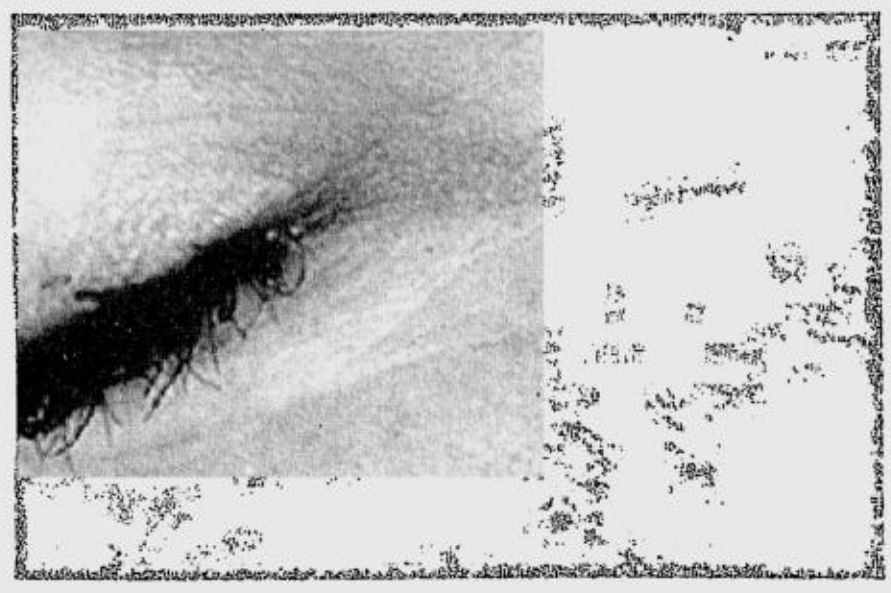
Diamond wands slowly peel away dead skin, making wrinkles, fine lines and scars less visible



BEFORE microdermabrasion



AFTER microdermabrasion has peeled away dead skin

Sparkle like a gem without wearing one

By Alex Y. Vergara

DIAMONDS aren't only a woman's (and man's) best friend, they can also be her best-kept beauty secret to a smoother, younger-looking skin.

D'Mark Multisales Corp. (tel. 2446992/ 2423636/2424242) introduced recently a microdermabrasion technique using a set of wands with diamond-encrusted tips designed to slowly peel away dead skin, thus making wrinkles, fine lines, enlarged pores and acne scars less visible.

Microdermabrasion is a process that involves peeling or exfoliating the topmost layer of the skin over several sessions. The process is a gentler form of dermabrasion, which is invasive and more abrupt.

Marketed under the brand name New Apeel, the American-made "microdermabrader" is said to be an improved version of an earlier model used for so-called chemical peels.

Maintenance-free

The earlier version uses messy aluminum-oxide crystals while "diamond dermabrasion" or diamond peel comes with four types of "DiamondTome" wands (fine, medium, coarse and extra coarse) that are virtually maintenance-free.

And the best part is the wands don't leave behind sandy particles.

Filipino dermatologists like not having to pay for consumables that aren't only costly, but may also pose a health risk to patients, especially the asthma sufferers.

"I do everything myself," says Dr. Angela Cumagon of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital. "The diamond peel is portable and quite user-friendly. I don't have to clean up every time I use it. It doesn't leave any messy residue that the patient can inhale."

Dr. Mary Anne Amon of the Makati Medical Center finds the DiamondTome wands easier to control than the chemical peel.

The level of peeling depends on the type of wand the doctor uses, the degree of pressure she employs and the number of times she works on a particular area of the face.

The wand, which works in a circular motion, is attached to a tube that also sucks away dead skin and black and white heads.

"The procedure isn't painful at all," says Dr. Amon. "And not a few patients say their skin becomes tighter, cleaner and more radiant after only several sessions."

A typical program consists of 10 to 12 sessions (around P2,500 to P3,000 per visit). Each session lasts no more than 20 minutes. The skin is given time to regenerate for a week or so before the patient undergoes another session.

After completing the entire program, the patient can return for monthly "maintenance" visits.

Like the chemical peel, the diamond peel is another form of microdermabrasion and shouldn't be confused with the more drastic and older form of dermabrasion usually done in the operating room.

Aside from being painful and costly, dermabrasion may cause hyperpigmentation (blotchy, uneven skin tone) that can make one look like a Dalmatian.

Microdermabrasion is a non-invasive or non-surgical procedure and does not require a person to stay away from the "limelight" for as long as six months. Short of sunbathing on the beach, a patient can resume normal activities soon after each session.

But since the uppermost layer of the skin is stripped, applying sunblock on the face is perhaps as essential as wearing fresh undies everyday.

A PATIENT undergoes the diamond peel treatment.

Other than some redness of the skin, the patient need not go into seclusion for being wrapped up in bandages and looking like a reluctant mummy. The procedure does not leave unsightly scabs caused by other more drastic methods.

"Initial results aren't as dramatic as undergoing dermabrasion," says Dr. Veronica Estrella of the Capitol Medical Center. "But over time, those with acne scars show a 30- to 50-percent improvement."

Dramatic improvement

One of the first persons to undergo the procedure is Marlon Co, 19, a college student with acne scars. After eight sessions with Jennifer Tam, one of D'Mark's sales officers and a trained aesthetician, Co saw a dramatic improvement in his facial skin.

"My face became whiter and smoother only after three sessions," he says. "Upon returning to school last June soon after completing the treatment, my classmates wondered what I did to my face. Some thought I had cosmetic surgery."

Despite success stories like Co's, the procedure doesn't produce flawless complexion like magic.

It can make acne scars shallower and less noticeable but it can't completely smoothen pockmarked skin. Those harboring such hopes are probably better off going to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"Like other forms of microdermabrasion," says Dr. Estrella, "the diamond peel is designed to improve the skin's texture. It can't prevent acne from recurring, nor can it be used on skin with active pimples."

Synergy is also a key to a better looking you. The procedure works better together with other treatments such as IPL (intense pulse light) and glycolic peels.

Under a doctor's supervision, regular application of skin-peeling agents like retinol and tretinoin also helps improve the skin's texture.

The diamond-encrusted wand is helpful but, like your best friend, there's a limit to how much assistance it can extend.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Calories still count

From page C1

time period."

These findings are similar to a study that was presented at the 2000 annual meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. The study involved 18 overweight men and women who were asked to write down everything they ate for a few days before beginning the Atkins diet. Here is what the researchers found:

• In the two-week induction phase (the strictest part of the diet when only 20 grams of carbohydrates are allowed), the dieters consumed 1,000 calories less than before they began the diet (1,419 calories on the Atkins compared to 2,481 calories before the diet). They lost an average of 8 pounds during this phase.

• In the succeeding phase, called the ongoing weight-loss phase, the dieters ate an average of 1,500 calories a day and lost about 3 pounds every two weeks.

• The actual amount of fat and protein being eaten during the diet was more or less the same as the amount the dieters were eating before the diet. The difference was that they had cut back on their carbohydrates by more than 90 percent.

This study demonstrates that the dieters were actually eating less than they were before following the diet. This means they were losing weight because they were eating fewer calories and not because carbohydrates were fattening or because fat and protein had "metabolic advantages."

A study that was done in Brazil this year showed that as long as calorie content is the same, the composition of the diet does not affect metabolic rate.

Seven obese women were put on three different diets for one week each. There was no difference in their basal metabolic rate or body heat production when given a high-fat, high-carbohydrate or high-protein diet.

More research is needed because this was a small study, but it is interesting to note that the results are a direct contradiction to the claim of Atkins that protein and fat have a metabolic advantage over carbohydrates.

Longer digestion

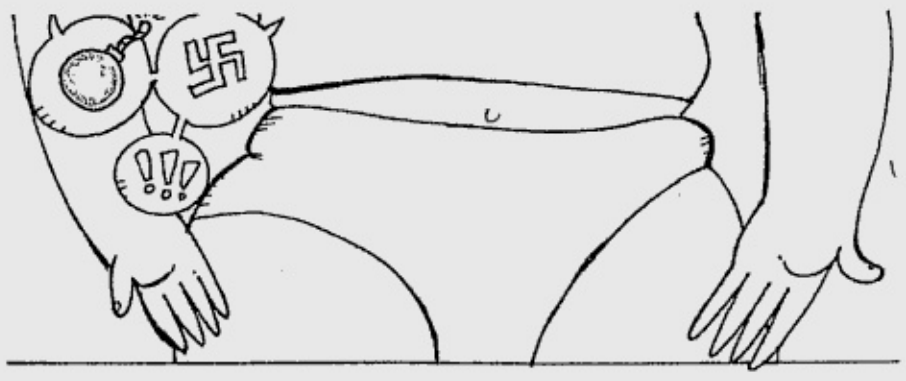
The reason why people can eat fewer calories on the Atkins diet and other low-carb diets and still feel like they are eating as much as they want is because protein and fat take a longer time to digest compared to carbohydrates, and they keep the dieter feeling full and satisfied.

When people go on a high-carbohydrate and low-fat diet, they often choose refined carbs in the form of white bread and pasta or they eat processed food like non-fat cookies. This makes them hungrier and increases their craving for more carbs.

But when dieters make the correct carbohydrate choices like whole grains, vegetables, beans, and fruits together with sufficient amounts of protein and fat, they are successful in losing weight and keeping hunger at bay.

This is proven by the 3,000 plus participants of the National Weight Control Registry (NWCR) who have lost an average of 66 pounds and have kept it off for six years.

What is unique about this on-going research study is that it is not trying to prove that one weight-loss method works over another. The researchers simply ask the participants to tell them how they lost weight and how they have maintained that weight loss over the years. They hope to gather data



It's like a bankbook. It's a matter of how much you put in and how much you take out...

that will inspire other people to do the same.

Even though the NWCR participants have lost weight "using every way known to man" as one of the researchers put it, they have four similarities in the way they maintain their weight loss.

• Eating a low-fat, high carbohydrate diet.

• Exercising for one hour every day.

• Eating breakfast almost every day.

• Close self-monitoring.

The researchers were surprised to find out that no matter what type of diet the participants used to lose weight, the overwhelming majority used a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet (on the average it was 24 percent fat, 56 percent carbohydrates, and 19 percent protein) to maintain their weight loss.

Less than 1 percent reported using a high-fat, low-carb, high protein diet to keep the pounds away.

Take note that carbohydrates were defined as high fiber foods like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables; not refined carbs. More than 6 percent reported eating smaller portions and eating more fruits and vegetables.

High fiber

Consumer Reports did their own survey of 8,000 people who lost at least 10 percent of body weight and kept it off for at least one year (half the participants kept the weight off for five years), and the majority were eating high-fiber grains like whole wheat bread, oatmeal and brown rice.

Many of the low-carb diet books claim that carbohydrates and insulin resistance are to blame for rising obesity levels. Dr. Gerard Reaven, an endocrinologist and leading authority in the field of insulin resistance, disagrees.

In an interview with Nutrition Action Health Letter in 1996, Reaven said, "Years ago, we put people with different degrees of insulin resistance on dramatically different diets—in one study, carbohydrates were either 85 or 17 percent of the calories. The only thing that affected their weight was how many calories they ate."

He further said, "There are so many studies showing that if you decrease calories, people lose weight, and it doesn't matter if you do it by cutting fat, protein or carbohydrate. A calorie is a calorie is a calorie."

He added, "Carbs don't make you fat, and insulin doesn't make you fat, as the books claim. Calories make you fat. It's like a bankbook. It's a matter of how much you put in and how much you take out. The more you eat and the fewer calories you burn up, the heavier you'll get. The law of thermodynamics, to the best of my knowledge, hasn't been repealed recently."

The first law of thermodynamics (there are four of them), or what is sometimes called "The Dieter's Law," states that energy cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be transformed into another form of energy. This is a law that governs the physical world we live in and our bodies are no exception.

The energy in the food you eat will be transformed into energy for muscle contraction, nerve impulses, heat production, chemical reactions and metabolic processes. If you eat more energy than you need, the body will store it as fat and you will gain weight. If you eat less energy than you need, your body will get the deficit from your stored fat and you will lose weight. If you eat enough energy for your needs, your weight stays the same.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info; for suggestions for future columns, e-mail me at fitness@attglobal.net

Poltergeists and other types of ghosts

SINCE All Saints' Day is just around the corner, I'd like to tackle questions sent in by reader Michelle about the ghost of her dead sister and ghosts in general.

My elder sister died at the age of 15 in 1985. Three days after she was buried, we experienced a strange thing.

My younger brother, sister and I were playing in the bedroom of my elder sister who died. Suddenly, her bed started to move forward and backward. At first, we thought there was someone playing tricks on us. So we ignored it. But the bed continued moving back and forth.

My sister then suggested, 'Let's go on top of the bed to stop it from moving.' And so we did. But to our great surprise, instead of stopping, the bed began to move more wildly than before! Up and down this time! We got scared, jumped down and ran outside.

One time, while my other sister was listening to the radio, my dead sister appeared in silhouette form. There are many things like this that happened, but after 40 days, the manifestations suddenly stopped.

I wonder why my elder sister was scaring us that way.

Ghosts appear to the living for a number of reasons, the most common of which is they still have unfinished business on earth. They have an important message to convey to the living.

Sometimes, the dead manifest themselves because they are not aware that they are already dead. They continue to do what they used to do while alive. There are many stories of this type of ghost in the annals of psychic research or parapsychology.

At other times, the spirit of the dead wants to avenge the person's death or seek justice for a crime committed against him or her. Sometimes, there is just too much or too strong attachment for a particular person, place or subject.

I cannot tell why your elder sister manifested herself in that scary manner. It is possible she didn't like the idea of your playing inside her room right after she was buried. I don't know her character while still alive. Maybe she just wants you to know she's still around, that she's not dead. This is the reason she showed her silhouette to you, which means you are sensitive and you possess some clairvoyant abilities.

How long does a spirit remain earthbound? Is it true that after 40 days the spirit will no longer manifest to us?

There is no fixed period or time for this. It depends on the consciousness of the person who died.

The 40-day period that the spirit stays with us is only by tradition. It was "borrowed" by Christianity from ancient Egyptian belief in the afterlife, that it takes 40 days for the spirit of the dead to cross the River Styx in the underworld traveling on a boat. When the spirit crosses over that river to the other side, he will not be seen on earth anymore.

Isn't it the *kaluluwa* or soul of a person that manifests to the living? When a person dies, his soul goes with him, and his spirit goes back to God. Then why do some souls still make their presence felt by those left behind?

The soul does not die with the person. It still lives just as his spirit does. The soul is the principle of life. What makes you the particular or specific person that you are is your soul. The spirit is the divine spark that is really what makes us part of God. What manifests is the consciousness or "kaluluwa" of the individual which is an aspect of the soul.

This may be a bit difficult to grasp, but don't bother yourself about these minute distinctions. Even philosophers don't agree on this. So we can interchange the terms.

According to my parents, after 40 days it is no longer the spirit of the dead that manifests but the evil spirits. Is this true?

No, this is not true. As I pointed out, there is no fixed period of time a spirit stays earthbound. There are well-known personalities who are still manifesting in England and in France centuries after they died. It is said that Elvis Presley still manifests himself and even stops trucks and taxis in Memphis, Tennessee, to hitch a ride with them.

I noticed every time I dream of my sister and other dead relatives, they look younger compared to the age when they died. Why is this so?

The dead will manifest in their ideal age after they have stayed for a while in the spirit world. The old will appear in their prime age when they are most handsome or beautiful. Your sister probably feels much happier at a younger age and therefore shows herself at that age.

Why is it that my sister manifests herself strongly to us brother and sister but never to our parents, not even in dreams?

Spirits manifest themselves to those who are sensitive or psychically tuned to them or else gifted. People whose chakras are open or whose third eye is open can sense spirits, but not those whose chakras are inactive or blocked.

Not all persons are sensitive to psychic or spiritual forces. Your parents are probably too critical or analytical that they cannot feel the subtle vibrations.

Does too much attachment by the living to the person who died affect the dead? How can that be since they are no longer in the same dimension?

Yes, there is an effect. Too much attachment or the inability of the living to let go of the dead relative, and too much mourning or calling them, makes it more difficult for the dead to ascend to a higher spiritual realm. They are always pulled back. This is not good. The living should let go after a short while.

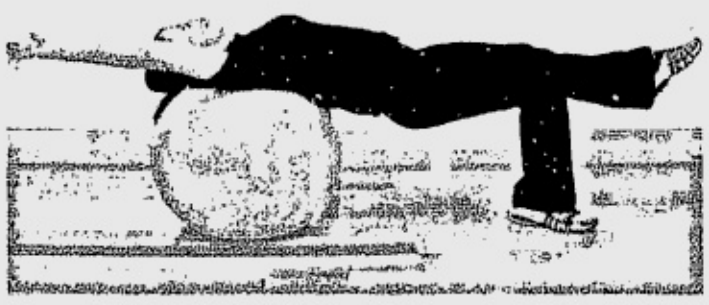
How does this happen? Remember, we the living are still partly spirit and partly physical. It is the spirit in us that is in touch with spirits of the dead. Communication between the living and the dead still goes on, but on a telepathic or mental level alone.

I hope the above clarifies some of the questions you have about ghosts.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Communication between the living and the dead still goes on, but on a mental level alone

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Supine opposite arm and leg on stability ball

STRENGTHENS the hamstrings and buttocks; challenges the core muscles.

Equipment:

Stability ball. As an alternative, you can do this exercise on the edge of a sturdy bed with a firm mattress.

Exercise technique:

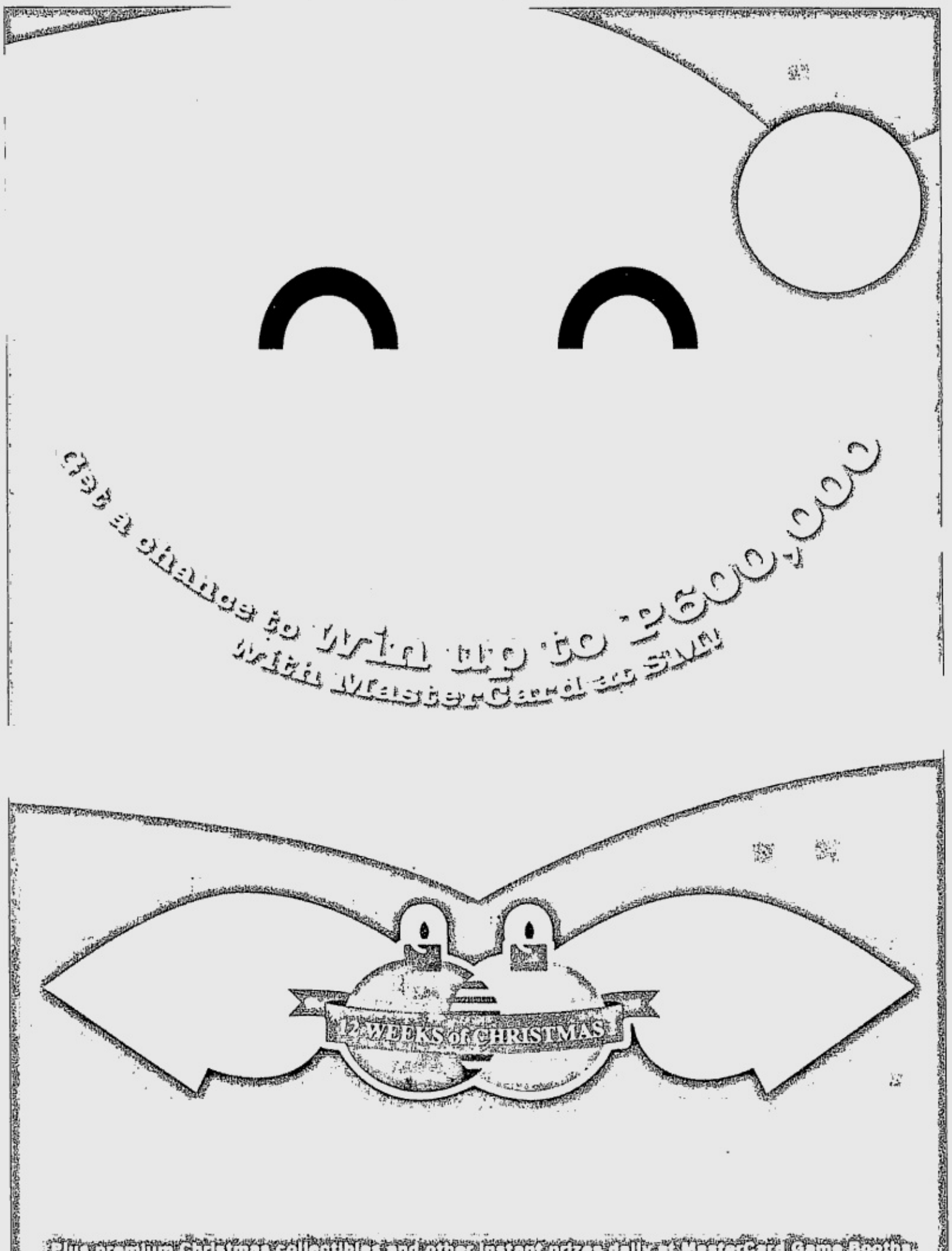
1. Start by sitting on the ball with your legs hip-width apart.
2. Slowly lower yourself into the bridge position by walking your feet forward while you simultaneously lean backward.
3. The ball should stay in contact with your body as it rolls from your lower back to your head and shoulders.
4. Once the ball is behind your head and shoulders, push your feet into the floor to lift your hips level with your shoulders. Place both hands on the floor.
5. Extend your right arm and stabilize your body. Then, carefully extend your left leg. Hold the position for 5 to 10 seconds.
6. Slowly put your left leg down, then bring your right arm back down to starting position.
7. Repeat with the opposite arm and leg.

Performance tips:

1. If you feel you need more support, you have two options:
   a) Keep both hands on the floor while you extend one leg.
   b) Keep both feet on the floor while you extend one arm.
2. Throughout the execution of the exercise, keep your hips in line with your shoulders.
3. Focus on elongating and lengthening the body as you extend the opposite arm and leg.

Repetitions:

Do one to three repetitions per side.



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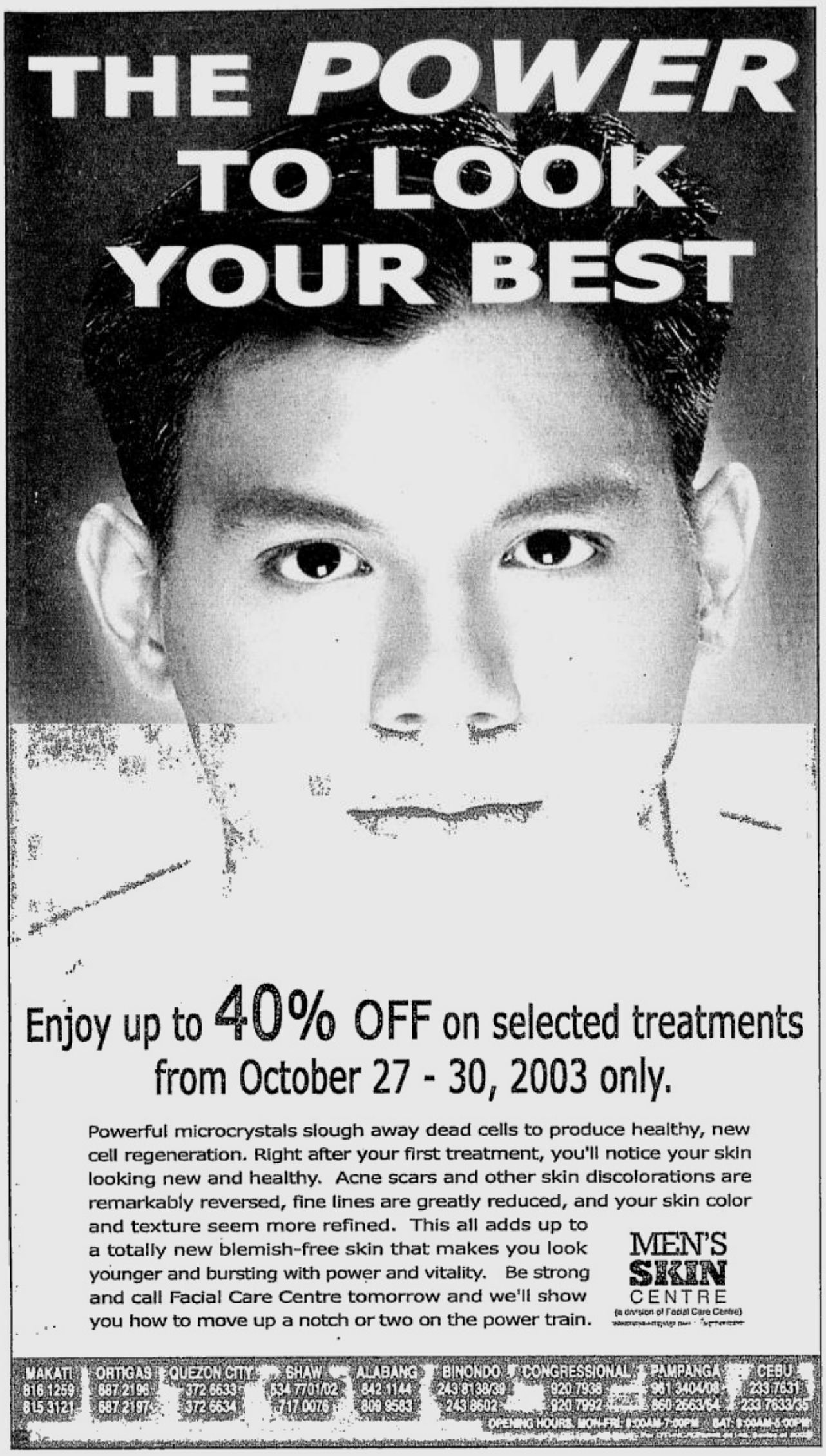

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

More wellness blessings

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

GREAT food choices, mood boosters, health enhancers—these are only some of the myriad blessings in store for everyone who has heart-friendly pampering in mind.

Gourmet treats, the French way. Bizu is fast-becoming a super gourmet deli with delightful quiche and freshly baked breads to go. If you dine in, ask for their healthy-heart items like wild mushroom or pumpkin soup, a big hot bowl of mussels, spicy calamari salad, tofu sandwich, pastas galore, etc. If your sweet tooth aches for a helping of their delicious macaroons, it's okay, indulge. These treats are only lightly sweetened. Better yet, try the mango chiboust; it's sugar free. Call 7574749.

Medicine, a fusion of East and West. Finally, the answer to those who trust modern medicine but believe in the power of traditional healing.

Synergy Med, the healing center located in Discovery Center Building at ADB Avenue (across Podium) Ortigas Center is a refuge in the real sense of the word. Its spa atmosphere is thoroughly relaxing. The medical staff is composed of medical experts from the University of Beijing, St. Luke's Hospital, Makati Medical Center, UP and UST.

A patient may choose to consult the best of both worlds in treating as well as preventing diseases. Services include acupuncture, acupressure, Chinese herbal medicine, foot therapy and body massage, as well as complete diagnostics services. Call 6314210.

Cardio-dance to a stronger body. Fitness professionals are always perfecting their craft. Now, one can do a combination of exercises and not just stick to one kind of workout.

Called Les Mills body training systems, this one allows you to have a choice of martial arts; body jam— street, Latin and funk dancing; body pump—aerobics with weights set to popular music; and body balance— taichi, yoga and Pilates set to meditative music. Call Fitness First at 7710828/ 8130761.

Wellness weekend in style. How about getting away from it all without really leaving the city? Check into a luxury hotel and avail of its wellness package —an overnight stay in a suite with a late check out, healthy breakfast, a choice of rejuvenating/Swedish or sports massages, aromatherapy soak bath, a bottle of red wine plus a breathtaking view of Ortigas Center's cityscape. Call Discovery Suites at 6312611.

Paradise is just a hop away. In the island of Mactan, Cebu, there is a real hideaway within a hideaway. By the seashore of the Shangri-La Mactan Hotel is a small rock island which you can rent for the night for a romantic dinner under a star-studded sky. For less than P6,000 for two persons, you are given an overnight stay, plus breakfast for two. Call 8138888.

Nirvana at your fingertips. A quick glimpse of bliss can be yours for two hours in the hands of Mela or Minerva at Orient Day Spa. This unique combination body works of Swedish, Shiatsu and Thai stretching is guaranteed to soothe your tired body. Call 8991396/97.

Go organic. Organic markets are now in Makati: Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Rockwell Center (in front of Cibo, street level); Greenbelt (Legaspi Street), 7 a.m.-6 p.m. You may choose from the freshest, chemical-free greens and goodies—veggies, fruits, *bangus*, eggs, pork, etc.

Slow food vs fast food. The good lifestyle leaders of Italy are re-introducing the old-fashioned way of growing, preparing and cooking food. In the Philippines, the Slow Food Organization composed of Mara Pardo de Tavera, Jessie Sincioco (of Le Soufflé) and many others are set to relaunch this concept by popularizing the use of indigenous rice, organic meals, etc. at the Top of the Citi, on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6 p.m.

Life's many pleasures can still be had with your health and well-being in mind. All you have to do is to be inspired by your guiding motto—health first.

Love & light!

Final dates for the Nestlé Nutren's Total Wellness: Body, Mind & Spirit seminar by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino are Dec. 3 and 12. Only the first 100 callers will be entertained. Call 8926806, 8980001 local 6713 or 0918-9304396.

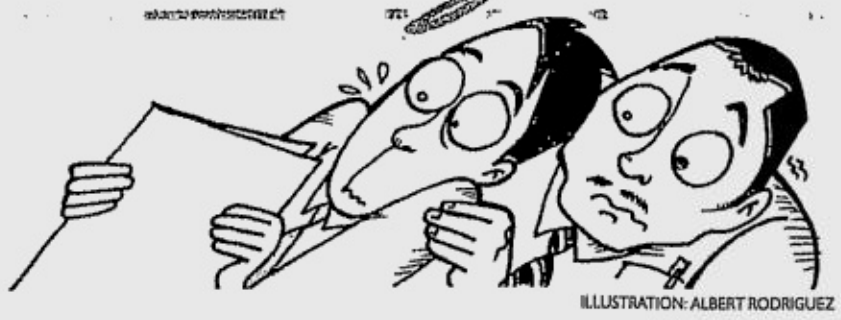

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Coping with PMS

By Pam Pastor

CONTRARY to what most men would like to believe, PMS (premenstrual syndrome) is not an excuse women invented to justify their occasional bad humor.

PMS, the emotional and physical changes a woman undergoes before her monthly menstruation, is a painful reality for a lot of women.

Few experts used to take PMS seriously. It was even jokingly referred to as the Part-time Mental Syndrome. But now, it is a widely recognized medical condition.

Dr. Carol E. Watkins of Baltimore, Maryland, says PMS may start anytime between a woman's first menstruation and menopause. The peak is during a woman's 20s and 30s. Once PMS starts,

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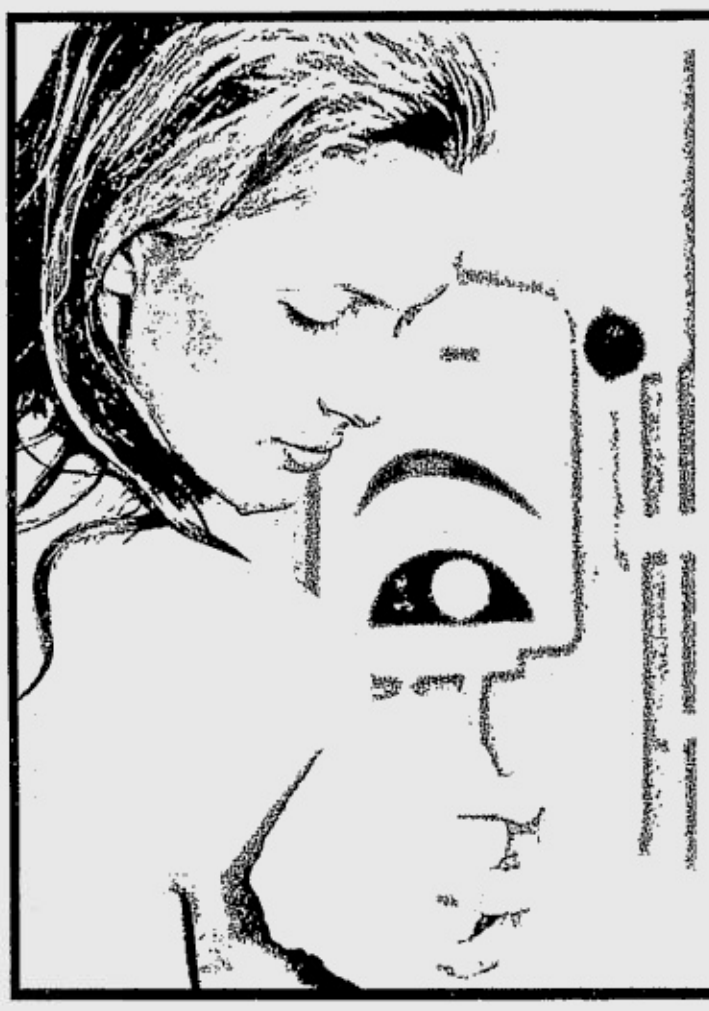

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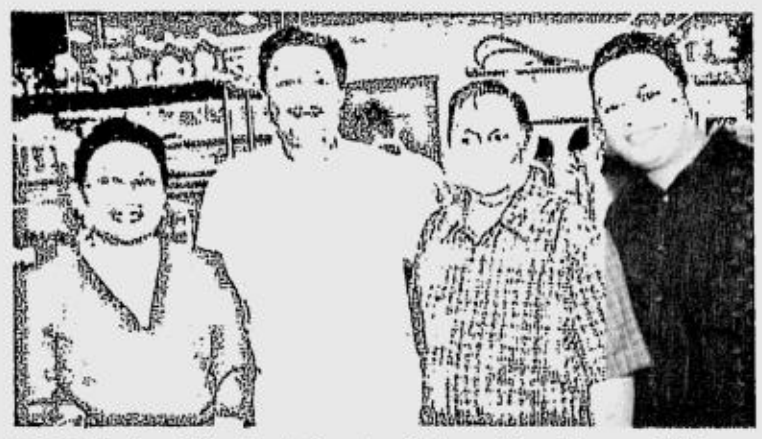
CELEBRATING the opening of BCI Glorietta: Rose Tanalgo with *moi*, Patricia "Shaan" Bermudez and other Tanalgo brood—AyAy, JM and Bing. Behind are Red Bull cagers Willie Miller, Vince Hizon, Mick Pennisi, Enrico Villanueva and Davon Harp.

BEAUTIFUL couple in love: lawyer Abigail Binay and Luis Campos



BABY Tanalgo, Valle Verde Country Club president Ernesto Villaluna, Jun Tanalgo and son JM

BACOLODNONS: model and singer Aliya Parcs with JM Rodriguez and Bing Tanalgo

ENGAGED Southerners: Paul Meim and Rose Tanalgo

Our fave chicken house spreads its wings

YES, *palanggas,* the launching of the seventh branch of every Southerner's favorite chicken, Bacolod Chicken Inasal (BCI), called for partying in the Bacolod, all-out-fun style.

The newest branch is on the first level of Glorietta 4 fronting SM Makati.

The popular **Tanalgo** siblings—**Rose, Bing** and brother **JM**—who own and manage this growing chain of restos famous for its wide choice of Ilonggo specialties, welcomed their pals and fellow Bacolodnons to BCI Glorietta's well-lit cozy interiors.

Their proud parents, businessman **Jun Tanalgo** and wife **Baby**, were also there.

In place of the usual ribbon-snipping was a balloon-popping rite led by smart lawyer **Abigail Binay,** daughter of Makati's mayor, joined by handsome Red Bull cager **Vince Hizon** with his lady love (and soon-to-be-wife on Jan. 1, 2004) **Patricia "Shaan" Bermudez**, and fellow Bacolodnon **JM Rodriguez.**

Mock-ups of the chain's trademark chicken barbecue were used to pop a giant balloon, out of which came a shower of colorful confetti.

Another balloon-popping also took place, this time led by popular Red Bull cagers **Mick Pennisi, Davon Harp** and **Enrico Villanueva**, together with attractive singer-model **Aliya Parcs**. Out came a downpour of little balloons that each held special BCI gifts for their catchers, written in paper strips.

Scenes from the colorful Masskara festival also came alive as dancers in their colorful costumes thrilled the invitees and the huge crowd of passersby outside the resto.

Needless to say, a mad rush took place afterwards to the buffet table, loaded with the resto's most popular dishes like the all-time fave chicken barbecue, Bacolod *lumpia ubod* and *bangus lumpia*, sizzling *bangus sisig*, pork barbecue, crispy crablets, *puto-pao* and lots of southern desserts.

Truly, *namit gid, palanggas!*

Do check out Bacolod Chicken Inasal in Glorietta 4, dahlings. Like me, you'll be coming back for more.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

One more Bacolod Chicken Inasal branch opens, Dish goes unplugged and a baby gets baptized... it's been a wholesome week

A definite triple treat it was, as Wave 89.1 and swingin' Dish brought for the first time on stage the country's rising acoustic masters—**Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc** and **Nyoy Volante.**

Dish was packed with loyal groupies who dashed in to watch their favorite singers, and they were not disappointed.

The three performers were superb, entertaining the audience with their music as well as with their witty spiels and antics. The crowd just lapped it up, punctuating the concert with endless whistles and laughter.

The gig was also memorable for two lucky members of the audience: 19-year-old UST student **Ryan "RJ" Jimenez**, who won a guitar autographed by the three featured artists, plus a chance to perform with them onstage, as the grand prize of a contest sponsored by Wave 89.1; and **Vanessa**, a "Wish Ko Lang" winner who also received a guitar and got to jam with her favorite singers.

Naturellement, heading the pack at the concert were 89.1 heavyweights such as **Joe D'Mango** and **Gary Caoli.**

Seen enjoying the show were Nestlé AVP **Bunny Caminade, Cathy Carmona, Tess Miranda, Tina Franco-Samaco, Angel Umali** and **Teng Joven.**

Also present were **Mae Timonera** and **Michelle Calo**, Samsung's **Ed Pasion** with **Trina Sunico, Rich** and **Eric Pasion, Mich Rodriguez** and **Olive Francisco**, San Miguel's **Iya Rodriguez** and **Carlo Carmona**, Mossimo's **Magnolia David, Louie Chuidian** and his fun wife, **Cynthia, Carlos Chuidian, Erwin de Guzman** and **Carmela Ongsiako Isabella.**

Dish's main man, **EJ Litton**, had good reason to be thrilled at this concert's success. More!

And her name is...

Three months ago, God gave fab couple **Anne Diokno** and Air France executive **Gabriel "Bingo" Braganza III** a little angel in the form of **Maxine Gabrielle Diokno Braganza** , their first baby.

Maxine was recently christened at the Santuario de San Jose church in Greenhills. For this solemn occasion, Bingo and Anne only had their chosen godfathers and godmothers present, plus some very close family pals, including *moi*.

We all proceeded afterwards to the reception at popular Kublai's Mongolian Restaurant at the Podium for a fantastic lunch. Done with that, we next attacked the delicious cake prepared by **May Santos.**

The celebration was short and sweet, as befits this simple family and their little darling. Best wishes to them!

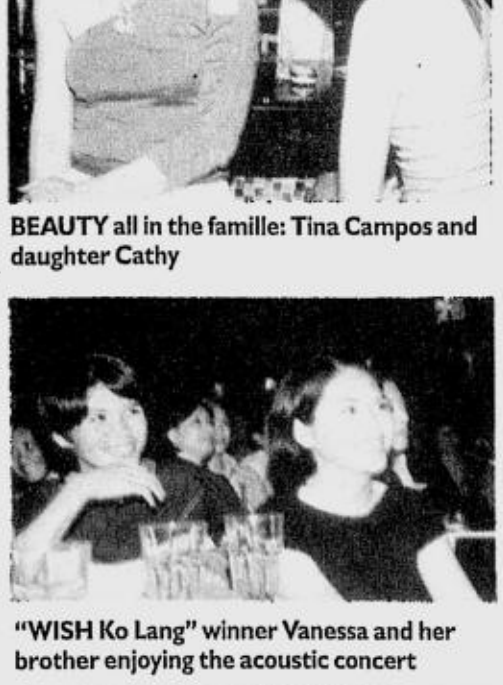
ENJOYING their *inasal:* Ting Caedo and Tony Lim

SOON-TO-WED: Vince Hizon with attractive fiancee Shaan Bermudez

SATISFIED diners: Ana Flores, Rey Laguda, Oliver Liggayu and Chris Florendo

TWOSOME Mond Ebro and fiancee Martha Naguiat

MAXINE'S godfathers included Robert Monroy, Richie Javier, Dennis Salonga and George Gaw with Fr. Joaquin Sillonar. Godmothers were Rosario Tiu Ang, Lourdes Xavier, Giselle Sison, Patricia Carreon and Nancy Diokno. At the back: businessman Gabriel Braganza and Victor Diokno, who proxied for Reynaldo Francisco



BEAUTY all in the famille: Tina Campos and daughter Cathy

RISING star Paolo Santos

BINGO and Anne Braganza with their cute daughter Maxine Gabrielle

"WISH Ko Lang" winner Vanessa and her brother enjoying the acoustic concert

ABS-CBN contingent: Spencer Ty, Kristine Cosim, Ellen Singson and Cheryl Cosim

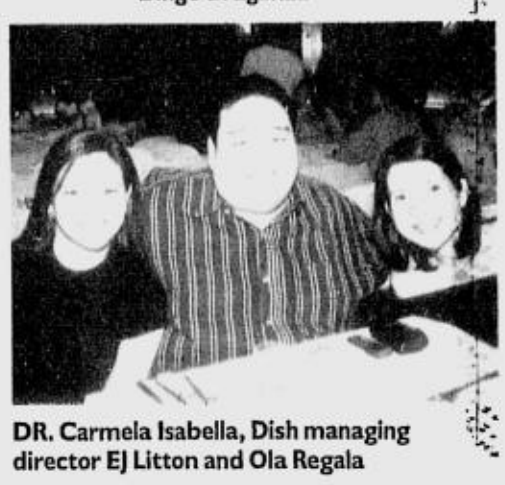
CHOW time: Katrina Rillera, Barbie Bengzon, Johnny Co, Chato Africa, Monette Tuazon and Mary Anne Seesante lining up for their Mongolian lunch

LIKE father, like son: Gabriel and Bingo Braganza

ERIC and Rich Pasion, Tina Sunico and Ed Pasion of Samsung

MICH Rodriguez, Maricris Sunico and Olivia Francisco

TENG Joven with Nestlé AVP for operations Bunny Caminade and Marina Yap



DR. Carmela Isabella, Dish managing director EJ Litton and Ola Regala

Exercise will save your life

KAREN Mayes, 45, is no marathoner, but she's in excellent shape. Almost every day for the last 10 years, Mayes has walked up and down the hills in her tree-lined neighborhood in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. A few years ago, she added a Pilates class to tone her muscles. "My goal is still be able to do things when I'm 80," she says. Even over the holidays, Mayes trooped through snow and ice for a payoff she knew she could count on. "I feel better, sleep better, eat better and look better," she says. "Exercise is a great thing."

If only the rest of the world felt the same way. Unfortunately, too many of us sit for hours at desk jobs, relying on e-mail, cell phones and, when we finally get home, the TV remote. Technology has fast-forwarded our minds, but slowed our bodies—and dangerously so. One in four adults leads a completely sedentary lifestyle and more than 60 percent of the population doesn't do enough physical activity to gain vast health benefits, chief among them a dramatic drop in the risk of dying prematurely.

"Being active and fit is good for you whether you're young or old, man or woman, tall or short, skinny or fat," says Steven Blair, president of Cooper Institute in Dallas, a health-research group.

In a study of 73,743 postmenopausal women published in September, researchers led by Dr. Joann Manson, chief of preventative medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, found that women cut their risk of heart disease by 30-40 percent whether they exercised vigorously in sports like jogging, swimming and aerobics or walked briskly for 30 minutes a day. "The important question is, does moderate-intensity exercise provide benefit? And the answer to that is an unqualified yes," says Blair. If everyone walked briskly for 30 minutes a day, he says, "The public-health battle would be won."

Researchers found that among healthy people with a body mass index (a ratio of weight to height) of less than 25 (with 18.5-25 being desirable), 60 minutes of physical activity were necessary to maintain body weight and avoid excess gain. But the finding should not negate what the CDC recommends, says Dr. Ben Caballero, who was a member of the Institute of Medicine panel and is director of the Center for Human Nutrition at Johns Hopkins school of public health. The two guidelines, he says, "are complementary."

Focus on health, not on weight loss

If you've made it to even half an hour a day, congratulations.

If you're investing in your first pair of athletic shoes, walk for a few minutes a day until you work up to 30 or more. A brisk pace is critical: to get the full health benefits, you must complete a mile in 15-20 minutes max. You should feel your heart beat faster, your breath quicken, your sweat drip. Consider using a pedometer, which tracks the number of steps you take per day, and aim for 10,000.

Studies have shown that exercising in three 10-minute sessions is comparable to a workout in 30 minutes all at once. "Whether it's walking to work, walking a little extra after you park the car or doing planned exercise, everything counts," says CDC's Dr. Michael Pratt.

Build up your muscles

Any exercise program should also include resistance training for 20 minutes three times a week, using weights or exercise bands, or doing push-ups or squats. Weight training increases muscles and improves bone density-critical for baby boomers who'd rather bungee-jump than use a walker. "There's no other way you retain muscle mass and strength," says William Haskell, an exercise specialist at the Stanford School of Medicine. Better strength also means fewer falls which are the leading cause of death from injury in people older than 65.

A recent Stanford study of more than 60,000 men found that tolerance for exercise (rested on a treadmill) was stronger predictor of risk of death than high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, high-cholesterol and heart disease. And, finally, in the study of 73,743 women, just sitting for longer periods of time predicted an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Heart disease, by the way, is the nation's no.1 killer. So, stand up. And get moving.

Source: Healthy Options News Digest with stores located at 1/L of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L of Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor of SM City, North Edsa; 2/L of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; at 2/L of SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga and SM Bicutan.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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I've heard news of a new MEDICard clinic in SM. Can we get medical services there and what are offered?

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Meet your MEDICard Team

Philippine Society of Ophthalmology member **Recaredo A. Sarmiento** has more than 18 years of clinical experience. This medicine graduate of UERM-MMC specializes in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat ailments. He finished his residency training for his specialization at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. Doc Recaredo is married to Felisa Sarmiento, also a medical practitioner, with whom he has three wonderful children. For consultations, members may visit him at Prime Care Options located at the Nova Mall Plaza, 978 Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches, Quezon City. Dr. Sarmiento holds clinic every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 PM.

Contract Signing

IBM Solutions Delivery, Inc. (ISDI) signed recently the renewal contract of its corporate healthcare program with MEDICard. (Seated L-R) ISDI's Nicky Enriquez (HR Mngr.) & Emmanuel Mendoza (Pres. & Managing Dir.), MEDICard's Dr. Nicanor Montoya (Pres.) & Luis Montoya, EVP & GM. Also present were (Standing L-R) ISDI's Allan Crisostomo (Resource Dev't Leader), Emmanuel Castillo (Procurement Team Leader), Florence Villones (HR Partner), Love Guarin (HR Partner), Jenny Lim (Resource Dev't Leader), Ma. Annabella Santos (CFO), Glenda Garcia (HR Partner) with MEDICard's Miriam Villafuerte (Mktg. Srvcs. Mngr.), Amy Cuyugan (Accnt. Mngr.) & Ryan Marin (ISDI HR Partner).

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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EVER

Anti-PMS strategies

Women reveal their own solution to the monthly hassle

LOTS of sleep and a hot water bottle on my abdomen.—**Leidy**, 20, sales representative

I don't deal with PMS. I let the people around me deal with it. Friends have to deal with my mood swings. No pain!—**Mary**, 21, editorial production assistant

Drinking hot tea does the trick for me.—**Sam**, 20, student and writer

I lash out at my sister.—**Felice**, 19, interior design student

I always have an ample supply of Advil or 500-mg mefenamic acid in my purse because I have been suffering from PMS every month since I was 19. I'm now 28. My PMS gets worse during the 'ber' months in Baguio so I apply Johnson's body warming oil or Efficacent Oil all over my body to keep me warm. I stay away from sour fruits and anything cold.—**Gobleth**, 28, editorial assistant

I normally crave for sweets so I just eat. If my cramps hurt, I lie down. I don't take any medication.—**Drew**, 27, web designer

I recognize the symptoms like severe mood swings and food cravings then I just go with the flow. I don't fight or control it because it's useless. I tell my husband about it so he could prepare himself psychologically in case I become depressed or irritated all of a sudden. Then I just ride it out and wait until my period comes and I'm normal again.—**Jen Adams-Juan**, 25, entrepreneur

I stay away from everyone and warn my significant other before hand.—**Amor**, publicist

Lots of rest and lots of sweets. Lots of bitching around.—**Noemi**, 19, student

There's Ponstan and a nice warm bed.—**Ara**, 20, information editor

Shopping. All the walking forces me to exercise which is allegedly the best solution and all the new stuff gives me the high that only retail therapy can give.—**Rosa**, 26, law student and teacher

I get involved in some form of physical activity and pretend I'm sweating the pain away.—**Cathy Young**, 20, student and writer

I go out and drink with friends. They say alcohol helps.—**Cely**, 23, account manager

I take Midol.—**Jamie**, 23, editorial production assistant

I get pregnant.—**Jo**, 34, chef

Coping with PMS

From page D1

it normally lasts until menopause.

According to Womenshealthchannel.com, close to 80 percent of menstruating women experience the changes that cause PMS. But cases aren't all alike.

PMS symptoms can interfere with daily activities of half of women with the disorder. For about ten percent, the syndrome can be disabling. Symptoms vary with every person and cycle.

Even women who have had PMS for years might be surprised to know that there are over 150 symptoms related to the condition.

Symptoms can be related to mood or "affective," mental process or "cognitive," nervous system, gastrointestinal parts, fluid and electrolyte, and skin. They can include acne, oily skin, oily or dry hair, bloating, weight gain, cramps, muscle pain, headaches, insomnia, hypersomnia, food cravings, fatigue, depression, sadness, anxiety, anger, irritability, mood swings, decreased concentration, indecision, agitation, a change in sex drive, clumsiness, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, sweating and palpitations.

So far, there is no single known cause for PMS, but there are a lot of theories. Experts could not agree if it's hormonal, chemical, nutritional or psychological. The role of genetics has also been considered. Many believe PMS results from a combination of genetic, physiological and environmental causes.

It has been noted that most reports of PMS come from women who have already given birth, have had complicated pregnancies, have diets that are high in sugar and/or salt, have a high level of caffeine intake, experience minor pain and cramps during menstruation, live stressful lives and do not exercise.

Although its cause remains unknown, that hasn't stop people from trying to cash in on this problem. Many treatments are being offered and, in fact, the Internet is teeming with them.

There's the 14th day pink pill, which will supposedly help get rid of "swelling, bloating, pain, bad moods or headache." PMS Solutions comes in three bottles and costs almost $60 plus shipping. A website recommends self-hypnosis and astral travel. Natural Wonder Woman is a dietary supplement. The hilarious His and Hers Premenstrual Calendar aims to maintain domestic peace and promote understanding between couples. Countless books, e-books, booklets and pamphlets promise relief from PMS.

Fact is you don't have to look far for the best solutions. The best treatments start with you. You will be surprised at how far simple lifestyle changes can go.

Recognize your symptoms. Since PMS cases vary, the first step is to identify your symptoms so you can figure out what steps to take. Keep track of your symptoms by recording them using a menstrual chart. Visit http://www.pms.org.uk/chart.html for a printable chart you can use.

Exercise. Exercise is known to affect hormones. Elle Woods' line in "Legally Blonde" may seem ditzy but it actually makes sense. "Brooke exercised. Exercise gives you endorphins. Endorphins make you happy. Happy people just don't kill their husbands."

Exercising three times a week for 20 to 45 minutes is good for women with PMS.

Relax. Meditation or yoga may help reduce stress and physical discomfort.

Make changes in your diet. Alcohol and caffeine can cause mood swings. Salt increases bloating. Sugar can raise blood glucose levels and affect appetite and energy. Intake of refined sugar increases urinary excretion of magnesium and can lead to cramps. Fat can cause breast swelling.

In other words, cutting down on alcohol, caffeine, refined sugar, salt, dairy products and animal fat will be beneficial. Eat more fruits and vegetables. Drink tea. Consult a nutritionist.

Water is important. Make sure you drink enough.

Starvation is a no-no. Take several small meals a day. Don't go for more than three hours without food.

Forget Atkins and his high-protein diet. Research has shown that carbohydrates can be good for women with PMS. Apparently, carbs increase the level of the neurotransmitter serotonin, lowering one's tendencies to be depressed.

Load up on vitamins. Vitamin B6 is said to be very important, with doses of 50 to 300 mg daily helping alleviate PMS. Vitamin E supplements can help decrease the tenderness of the breasts and may also reduce nervous tension, headaches, fatigue, depression and insomnia. Magnesium supplements help relieve sugar craving and breast tenderness. But take magnesium only when symptoms are present. Primrose oil can prevent mood swings, irritability and depression. Calcium may also help.

Consult your doctor before taking any supplements and do not overdose.

Get enough sleep. You may need more rest during your menstrual cycle so get as much sleep as possible.

PMS vs PMDD. Realize that there is a difference between PMS and Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder, a more severe condition. The symptoms of PMDD resemble serious depression. The menstrual chart will help you figure out if you have PMS or PMDD.

Seek therapy. If PMS seriously affects your disposition, causes more stress or leads to depression, you may need counseling and therapy.

Don't shun natural remedies. Some women have found natural progesterone suppositories or creams and eating more soy products beneficial.

Accept that medication may be needed. Anti-inflammatory drugs like Ibuprofen can help with mild pain and cramping. Other women need anti-depressant drugs like Prozac. Women with severe PMS are prescribed tranquilizers like Valium, Ativan and Xanax to ease their ordeal. But do not self-medicate. Ask your doctor first. Unsupervised use of drugs will do more harm than good.

If you're not afraid of needles, try acupuncture. Some experts say the procedure can ease pain from many conditions. Clinical studies on the use of acupuncture in treating female disorders have been made.

Consult a doctor. Do not make any drastic moves without checking with your doctor. If your symptoms are severe or if you think you need medication, go see a professional, a sympathetic physician who would take you seriously. Before going to your doctor, make sure you have assessed your symptoms. Take your menstrual chart with you. You have a very big role in treating your own case of PMS.

Adjust. If you know you are prone to PMS, try to adjust to the monthly changes. Do not take your irritability out on people around you. PMS may be hard to live with but it shouldn't make you hard to live with, too.

Talk about it. Your partner, family and closest friends can help you deal with PMS. If you do not wish to involve them, at least give them fair warning when you're feeling extra-sensitive and irritable so they can step out of the way.

Do not use PMS to justify offensive behavior.

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5 Sabah hostages killed in Tawi-Tawi; 1 survives

Story Below, Col. 4

Peso slightly recovers; businessmen worried

By Clarissa S. Batinó, *Business*
and Juliet L. Javellana

THE PESO yesterday recovered to 55.35 to the US dollar after being pounded to its lowest record close on Monday amid a looming political crisis over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Even so, the peso still stands close to its

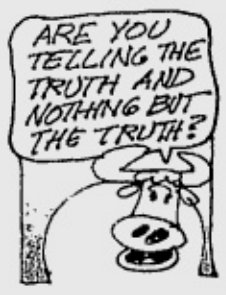
PESO / A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Davide foes zero in on P120,000 chairs

By Carlito Pablo
and PDI Research

THE LAWMAKERS who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. are shocked by his "throne."



DAVIDE / A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, October 29, 2003 ★★ 60 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 323 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Constitutional crisis'

Solons challenge SC order to suspend impeachment bid

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

THE IMPEACHMENT issue worsened into a constitutional crisis yesterday, after the Supreme Court "called" on Congress to "maintain the status quo"—that is, to refrain from transmitting the Articles of Impeachment against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"This is ushering in a full-scale constitutional crisis," Speaker Jose de Venecia said. De Venecia had sought to avoid a direct confrontation between the legislature and the high court by causing the early adjournment of the House.

Rep. Felix William Fuentebella (NPC, Camarines Sur), one of the two principal complainants of the controversial second impeachment complaint against Davide, declared: "The Philippines is now officially in a state of constitutional crisis."

"Let it be known that it is the Supreme Court which brought us here," Fuentebella said. "We are now teetering at the precipice of a constitutional breakdown."

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) said the status quo order was the "judicial version of the Pearl Harbor attack."

Rep. Giorgidi Aggabao (NPC, Isabela) noted that the "question now is who between the two great powers will blink first."

"The status quo order was a gauntlet thrown by the Supreme Court," Aggabao said. "Congress has no option but to take the challenge and uphold the constitutionality of all its actions."

Asked how congressmen will deal with the high court's status quo order, Aggabao said: "We will not allow ourselves to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said last night that the SC order was not a temporary restraining order (TRO).

"There is a distinction," said Arroyo. He explained that the SC issued an order to "maintain the status quo," or preserve the present situation "so that it would not render the petitions moot."

The lawyer-senator pointed out that the order was "diplomat-

CONSTITUTIONAL / A20

Oakwood rebels back anti-Davide lawmakers

THE LEADERS of the mutinous Magdalo Group yesterday announced their support of the lawmakers who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

In a handwritten letter, Captains Milo Maestrecampo, Gerardo Gambala, Nick Faeldon and Gary Alejano and Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes and James Layug said they believed in the "integrity and honesty" of Rep. Felix William Fuentebella (NPC, Camarines Sur), one of the principal complainants, "in fighting graft and corruption [to the extent of going] against the highest magistrate of the land."

"We believe that Davide's impeachment is the only way to prevent further damage to the institution which he represents," they said, adding:

"We call on the people to support the impeachment process."

OAKWOOD/ A21

House adjournment delays impeachment

By Carlito Pablo
and Cynthia Balana

THE SPEAKER'S gavel came down at exactly 2:22 p.m. yesterday—and then pandemonium broke loose in Congress.

Using parliamentary time to defeat the numbers behind the Davide impeachment move, Speaker Jose de Venecia and the so-called conscience bloc in the House of Representatives succeeded in thwarting the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment against the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Senate.

At 2:30 p.m., De Venecia sent Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez to the session hall to preside and then adjourn it until Nov. 10.

Many Lakas and party-list congressmen were still holed up in separate caucuses while the session was going on, with only a few opposition members and those from the Nationalist People's Coalition present.

Suddenly, Rep. Raul del Mar of Cebu City (Promdi) took the floor and moved to adjourn the session. Gonzalez immediately banged the gavel to approve it, leaving those pushing for the impeach-

HOUSE/ A20

FURIOUS after the sudden adjournment of the session for lack of quorum, Rep. Gilbert C. Teodoro Jr., who filed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Davide (in montage), and Minority Leader Carlos Padilla retreat to a room in the House of Representatives to plan their next move. ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

Saguisag: Sack son, censure pa

By Volt Contreras
and Norman Bordadora

WHY not just remove the son and "censure" the father?

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag came up with this proposal yesterday as national leaders continued their desperate search for a win-win solution in the "war" between Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and congressmen who had impeached him for alleged misuse of the Judicial Development Fund.

Instead of ousting Davide, Congress can just censure him "for not recognizing the power of the purse of a co-equal branch of government" and then compel the removal of his son, Joseph Bryan Hilary, as chair of the

SAGUISAG/ A21

Cory leads rally at Ateneo today

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER President Corazon Aquino will once again lead a series of prayer rallies in support of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., her spokesperson said yesterday.

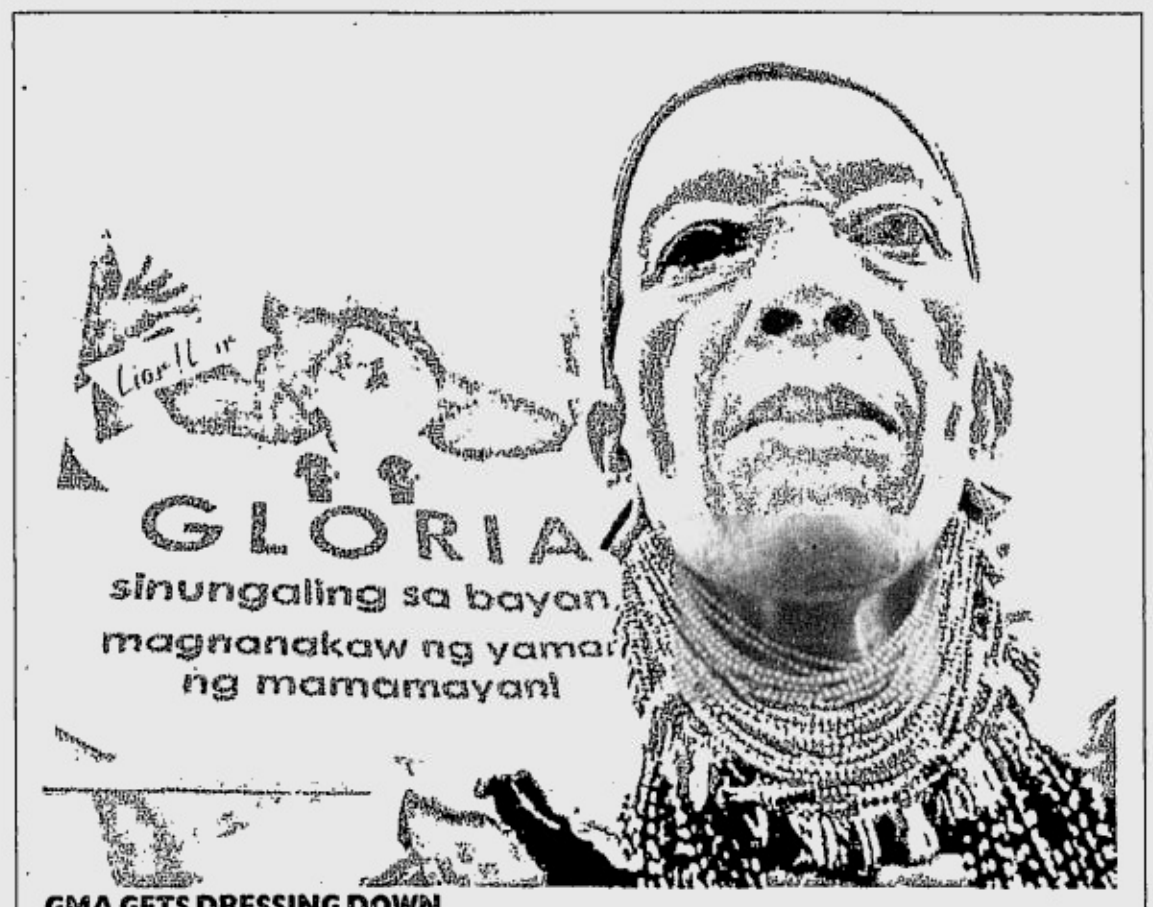
Aquino's "crusade" will kick off with a Mass at the Ateneo de Manila University at noon today where she and supporters will pray for unity and enlightenment for those plotting to overthrow Davide, according to Lourdes Siytangco.

Tomorrow, the former President will march to her late husband Benigno Aquino Jr.'s monument on Ayala Avenue in Makati where she will lead a similar prayer rally, Siytangco said.

Unless the controversy hounding Davide is resolved soon, Siytangco said Aquino would carry on with her marathon prayer rallies next week.

In all of the rallies, the call would be for national unity, said the spokesperson, noting that the impeachment case against the

CORY / A20



GMA GETS DRESSING DOWN
A female chieftain all dressed up in the finery of her Mindanao tribe, Bbiyaon Ligkayan Bigkay, joins the rally staged by Gabriela in Mendiola against President Macapagal to protest the allegedly rampant corruption and militarization during her administration. ERIK ARAZAS

Davide son in the eye of a storm

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila

BRYAN Davide is his father's son, according to his English teacher in elementary.

Ester Velasquez, now president of the Cebu Normal University, said Bryan had emulated the values of honesty, integrity and simple living instilled by his paternal grandfather Hilario Sr., which were passed on to his father Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Velasquez said Bryan and his older brother Hilario III, her pupils at the Sacred Heart School for Boys, were honest. "They are among the good boys in my class," she said.

Bryan, 37, has found himself in the eye of a political storm amid the impeachment move against his father.

The Chief Justice is being accused of controlling the multi-billion-peso Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) partially through Bryan, who Representatives Constantino Jaraula and Gilberto

DAVIDE/ A21

5 hostages seized in Sabah killed in Tawi-Tawi; 1 survives

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Suspected Malaysian pirates have killed five of the six people they snatched early this month from a resort in the town of Lahad Datu in Sabah, authorities reported yesterday.

Col. Nelson Allaga, commander of the Sulu-based 3rd Marine Brigade, said Indonesians Amir Nangi and Gapo, Malaysian Arsat Arcosil and his Filipino wife Amay, and another Filipino woman, Asara Saaban, were shot to death late Monday afternoon in Barangay Lagayas on Languyan Island, about five hours by boat from the Tawi-Tawi capital of Bongao.

The sixth hostage, Nonoy, 19-year-old son of the Arcosils, managed to escape the slaughter, Allaga said.

Senior Insp. Carlito Yantada, Languyan police chief, said Nonoy was found by villagers Monday evening clad only in his underwear.

Allaga said the killing of the five occurred just as policemen and soldiers, including Navy op-

5 HOSTAGES/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003,

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/29/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

It's all-out war against drugs

GMA brings fight to barangays, warns protectors of drug traffickers

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday brought the government's anti-drug campaign to the country's barangays even as she issued a strong warning to military and police officials and politicians who continue to coddle illegal drug pushers and undermine the anti-drug campaign.

"Our war against drugs will spare no one, all those involved will have to pay for their crimes," she said, saying police officers found giving protection to drug pushers and users will be immediately booted out of the service.

"*Walang arbor-arbor. Walang prote-proteksyon.* (No compromises, no favors)," she warned.

Speaking at the launching of the Barangay Anti-Drug Committee (Badac) at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday, Ms Macapagal said the government's all-out war on illegal drugs which began with the dismantling of drug syndicates and their laboratories three months ago was now in its second phase which would involve ridding "every corner" of the country's barangays of the drug menace.

"We can only declare that the war against drugs has been won if all barangays in the country have been declared drug-free," the President said.

She exhorted all barangay officials to help the authorities in monitoring illegal drug operations in their areas by reporting suspected shabu (methamphetamine hydrochoride) laboratories and the activities of suspected drug dealers, pushers and users.

The President said the government hoped to use the Badac with its broad membership, including Church and school representatives, to step up the information campaign on the effects of illegal drugs.

Some of the local government officials present noted that the public's lack of awareness regarding the dangers of illegal drugs has been one of the stumbling blocks to the anti-drug campaign.

More than 10,000 barangay officials attended the Badac congress.

Each Badac is to be composed of the punong barangay as chairman, the barangay kagawad as vice chair, the Sangguniang Kabataan chair, the local public school principal, the executive officer of the barangay tanods and representatives from non-government organizations, civil society, parent-teacher association, homeowners association and religious organizations.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said illegal drugs have become a P216-billion to P432-billion industry so that it would take a determined effort by government to crush the trade in illegal drugs.

He said the intensified anti-drug campaign which started on June 19 has already resulted in the arrest of 12,619 individuals, including 150 big-time drug traders, from an initial target of 7,000 as of Sept. 18, 2003.

"Of these figure, 4,798 were considered drug pushers while the rest mere possessors," Lina said.

Lina, who also chairs the Dangerous Drug Board, noted that the campaign led to the dismantling of 11 clandestine laboratories and chemical warehouses containing shabu and chemicals for its manufacture. He added that 42 marijuana plantations were destroyed and 1,709 barangays were cleared of illegal drug problems.

According to a 1999 survey, there are at least 1.8 million regular drug users in the country consuming an average of five to 10 grams of shabu monthly. A gram of shabu costs about P2,000.

"So if one consumes five grams a month that would cost the user P10,000 a month or P120,000 a year and multiply that figure by 1.8 million users and you will arrive at a conservative amount of P216 billion," Lina said.

About 13 transnational drug rings and 175 local drug syndicates operate in the Philippines where there are some 45,000 drug pushers in the streets. *With a report from Nelson Fortes Flores*

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Davide for prez? No thanks, says CJ

By Cynthia D. Balana

PUBLIC outrage over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide has taken a surprising turn with several House legislators now apparently convinced that Davide will be a strong contender for next May's presidential election.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Davide has become the subject of caucuses in the House because of the unexpectedly strong public support for him.

She said that in and out of Congress, people are saying that the nationwide protests against the impeachment was actually laying the groundwork for a Davide for President movement.

Rosales said she believed that Davide has the moral ascendancy over all other presidential candidates because of his track record as a justice and also as a former assemblyman.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. however immediately doused cold water on the idea.

Khan said Davide was not likely to throw his hat into the political ring despite the sudden surge in his popularity.

"The Chief Justice has already said before he has no intention to seek public office beyond his term," Khan said.

Rosales said Davide's emergence as a possible presidential contender was not something that was planned.

"Usually in a crisis, a leader comes out. I don't know about [Davide's] abilities to relate to people but from what I can see, it is the people who are relating to Davide," she said.

Rosales is a member of the conscience bloc in the House that is working to avert the forwarding of the impeachment complaint to the Senate for trial.

Rosales said Davide would be a "standout" among the current crop of presidential candidates should he decide to leave the bench and join the race.

She noted that it was the good qualities that Davide exhibited as Chief Justice that made people rally behind him despite allegations of corruption that several congressmen, most of whom belong to the party of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, have leveled against him.

What endeared Davide most to the people and the civil society were the breakthrough rulings of the Supreme Court that he heads, Rosales said.

Among these were the decisions on the coonut levy funds, the Marcos ill-gotten wealth and the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Rosales said she believed the impeachment complaint was politically motivated considering that there were at least three cases against Cojuangco now pending before the Supreme Court. *With a report from Gerald Lacuarta*

Boos for Joe de V drive 'Manay' Gina to tears

By Carlito Pablo

IT WAS just too much for the amiable Manay Gina.

Ma. Georgina de Venecia was "hurt" and, according to one witness, even wept after members of the civil society booed her husband, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., during a rally at the front yard of the House of Representatives on Monday afternoon.

De Venecia was speaking to the rallyists—supporters of impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.—about his settlement proposal when he was booed and heckled.

"Manay Gina was beside the Speaker when this happened," said a congressman who asked not to be named.

The couple left right after the Speaker's remarks and Mrs. De Venecia bussed former President Corazon C. Aquino, who was the rally's main speaker.

Back at the Speaker's office, Mrs. De Venecia was seen with tears in her eyes.

"She didn't expect that to happen," the congressman said. "The Speaker was really trying to forge a compromise and, in fact, one that was favorable to their (the rallyists') side."

Administration and opposition lawmakers took turns in assailing the conduct of the demonstrators, who had been allowed to gather inside the Batasan Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Lakas, Iloilo City) said: "It was very unfair and unChristian on their part to show such disrespect to the Speaker."

Gonzalez said civil society members were clearly emotional about the Davide impeachment and had not realized that De Venecia was just trying to mediate.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) quipped: "It showed that civil society does not show civility to society. How can you boo the number four man in the republic, and in the presence of his lady at that?"

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) was appalled by the "rude treatment," and said De Venecia's "efforts of conciliation should have been welcomed."

The group's behavior was "highly uncivil," Suplico added, "nothing less than an expression of mob rule."

FPJ offers moral authority as presidential timber, gushes Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño

MORAL authority.

This was what Fernando Poe Jr. could offer as presidential contender, according to opposition Sen. Eduardo Angara, in the same way that President Macapagal-Arroyo and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco might volunteer their economic and business expertise, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson a formula to maintain peace and order.

"Poe has no vices. He has leadership qualities and a clean record," Angara said yesterday on a morning television show.

The senator had been asked what Poe, whom the opposition was convincing to run in 2004, had to offer.

And since the actor was also a successful film producer, Angara said, it stood to reason that Poe had "some business acumen."

He hinted that there was more to Poe's scant address to supporters last Saturday at the Cuneta astrodome in Pasay City. "He said he hoped he could do something for them in the future. What does that mean? What did FPJ mean?"

As president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the senator reiterated that opposition parties intended to support one standard-bearer in next year's polls.

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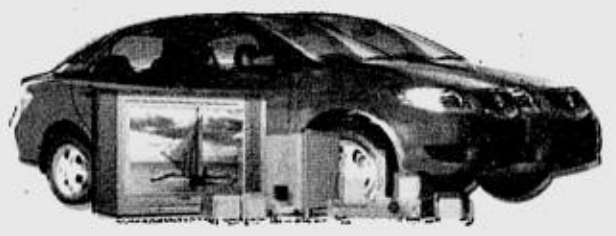

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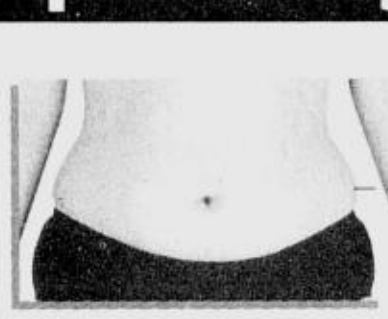

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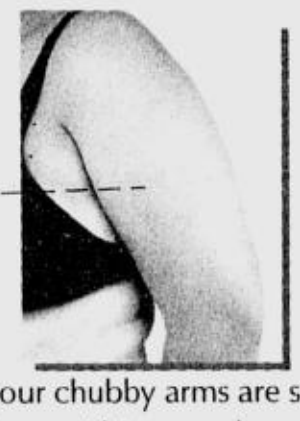

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Lacson bribed us to retract, say 2 Kuratong witnesses

By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine P. Avendaño

TWO witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case yesterday admitted that aides of Sen. Panfilo Lacson paid them huge amounts of money to retract their original statements implicating the former police chief and 33 other police officers in the summary killing of 11 members of the notorious crime syndicate.

The witnesses—Myrna Soronda Abalora and Armando Capili—said that in exchange for the money they were made to sign affidavits of desistance already prepared for them by Lacson's aides whom they identified as Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao.

Abalora, whose two sons, two nephews, and two other relatives, were summarily executed allegedly by Lacson's men at the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, said she was paid P5 million to withdraw her complaint.

Capili, an ex-tabloid reporter, claimed he was paid P300,000 to change his original testimony that the 11 Kuratong suspects were taken alive from a Parañaque subdivision and brought to Camp Crame the previous night before they were killed in an alleged shootout on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City on May 18, 1995.

"There was no shootout. They (suspects) were very alive when they were arrested," Capili, who witnessed the killing, said in his first affidavit.

Lacson, however, denied the claims of the two witnesses that he had bribed them to retract their earlier statements.

"Even assuming that they were bribed, doesn't it show that they

ABALORA

CAPILI

are bad people for accepting a bribe and then recanting their statements?" he said.

Lacson recalled that when Capili retracted his earlier statement against him and other police officers implicated in the rubout case, the latter had approached him to ask for a jeepney but he turned down the request.

"If I am a bad person like what they want to portray me, Capili must have been dead by now," Lacson said. "It's a good thing, I remain God-fearing."

But Efren Moncupa, a private prosecutor, yesterday said Abalora and Capili's admission would help establish the guilt of Lacson and other active and retired top police officials. "If you're innocent, why pay?" he asked.

He said the contradicting testimonies of the two witnesses as a result of the alleged bribe that they got would not taint their credibility come actual hearing.

In an interview, Abalora said Lacson and his men started convincing her and her family to drop their complaint in December 1996, or more than a year after six of their relatives were slain.

Among the slain suspects were her sons Sherwin, 17, and Ray, 20, nephews Meleubren Soronda, 14, and Joel Soronda, 21, and Wilson and Gemma Soronda.

In January 1997, Abalora said, she and other relatives of the slain suspects were brought to Manila by heavily armed policemen and were billeted at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City. She said they were provided with free plane tickets.

Abalora said they stayed in separate hotel rooms and were told that Charlie "Atong" Ang, a crony of former President Joseph Estada now in the US, would negotiate with them one at a time.

When it was her turn, Abalora said Ang offered her a P300,000 settlement, saying "nothing would happen in the case anyway because other complainants had already backed down."

When she insisted to negotiate only in the presence of her lawyers, Ang became exasperated and told her before leaving the room: "If only my *kumpare* (friend) won't run, I wouldn't do this," apparently referring to Estrada who was then vice president and concurrent head of the PACC.

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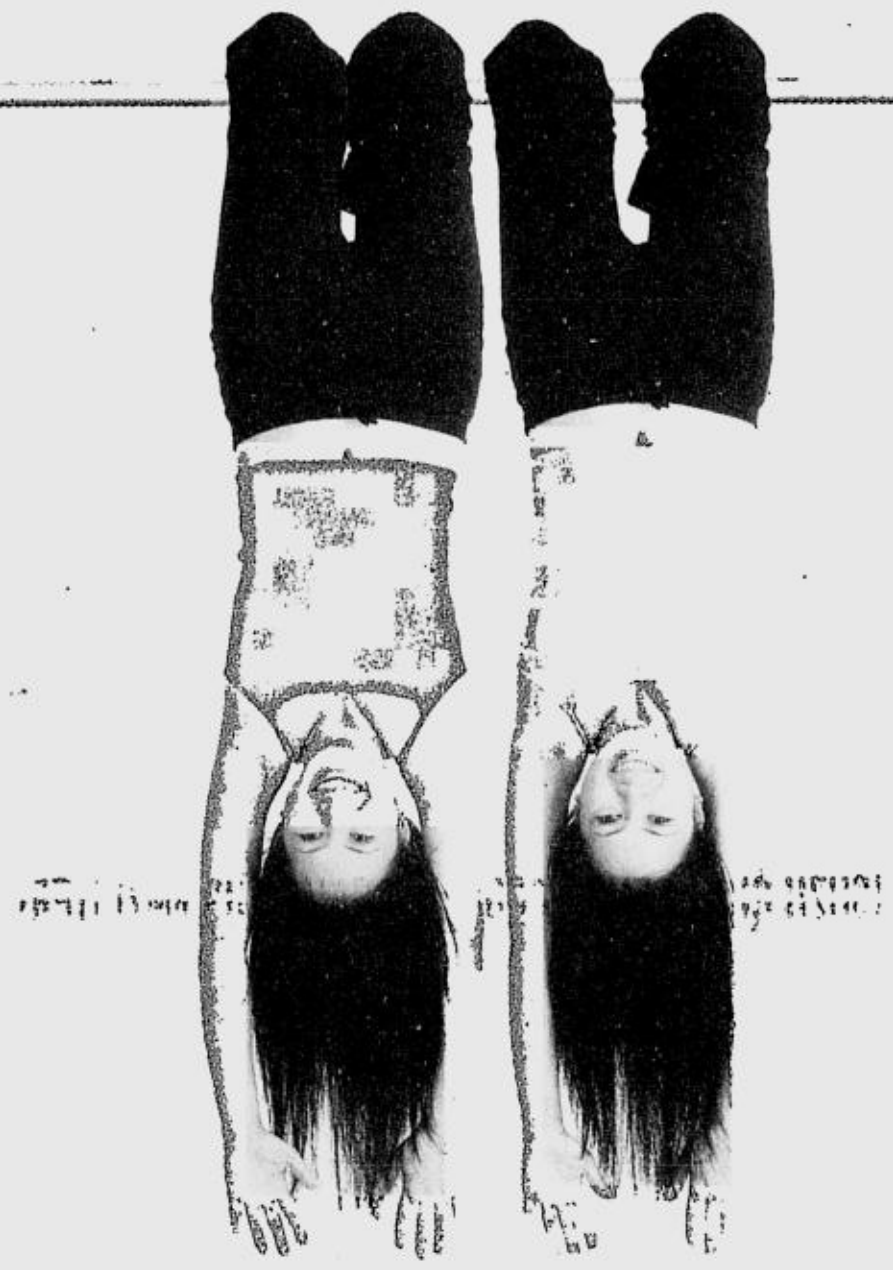

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SPOUSE'S
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TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
BANK BRANCH DEPOSIT BALANCE

IF ANY.

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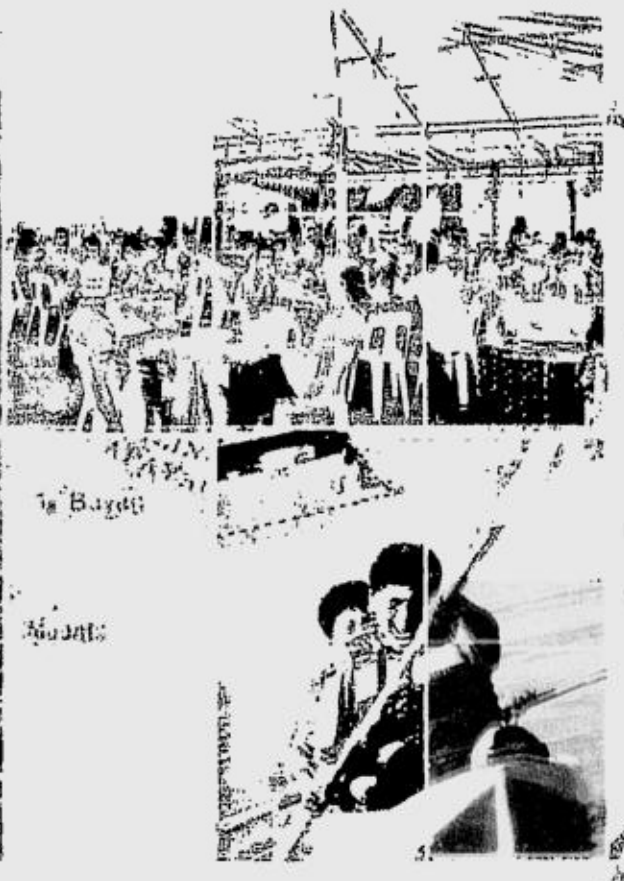


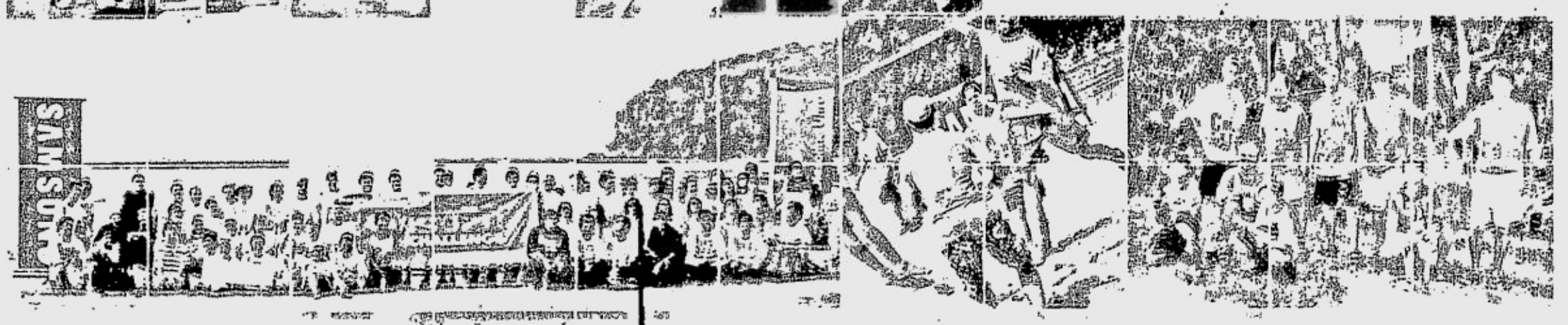
September 20 marked the 3rd leg of the 2003 Isuzu Challenge. 50 proud Isuzu owners excitingly revved up their prized Isuzu vehicles, preparing for the challenge ahead.

After filling up with Shell Diesoline Ultra up to the brim, the challengers were flagged off one by one at Isuzu Manila. Armed with their route books, the driver and navigator teams drove to Nalc Cavite, employing every fuel economy driving tip they learned during the event briefing. The route was tough. Beating the record was even tougher. But the challenges brought out the best from the teams as the Metro Manila contingents emerged with impressive results. Ronald and Roy Aguto reached a fuel efficiency rating of 43.51 km/liter taking the first place in the Crosswind M/T category. The Trooper category winners were not far behind with Oscar Nuke and David Aquino reaching 38.83 km/liter fuel efficiency. Fuego category winners Michael and Patrick Gutierrez brought in an impressive 32.85 km/liter while Marjorie Wong and Tricia Lim took first place in the Crosswind AT category reaching an efficiency of 22.1 km/liter.

The Isuzu owners then proceeded for a fun filled day of sports challenges to Caylabne Bay, a picturesque resort chosen by Isuzu Philippines to pamper their loyal customers. Blazing through the Beach Volleyball, kayaking and intense flag capture strategy war game, the Charlie Black Team won the best squad trophies and prizes.

The Isuzu Challenge Manila leg = another triumphant test of man and machine, was sponsored by Shell Diesoline Ultra, Samsung and WG&A. Superferry.

They drove, they ran, they conquered = and everybody came out winners.



THE END IS JUST THE BEGINNING

The final leg of the ISUZU Challenge qualifying round signals the start of the bigger, more exciting and definitely more challenging ISUZU Challenge finals.

ISUZU CHALLENGE 2002 PRODUCED 36.40 KM/LITER FOR THE CROSSWIND M/T

ISUZU CHALLENGE CEBU SCREAMED 83 KM/LITER!

ISUZU CHALLENGE ISABELA BOASTED AN AVERAGE OF 44.76 KM/LITER FUEL EFFICIENCY FOR ALL MODELS!

ISUZU CHALLENGE MANILA BRAGGED 44 KM/LITER FOR THE CROSSWIND M/T!

Isuzu Philippines calls all the winners for the Isuzu Challenge 2003 finals. Winners, are you up to the Challenge?

ISUZU CHALLENGE 2002

Angelito Cruz
Arnuel Cruz
Ryan Gudani
Paul Imperial
Tohichi Bautista
Ina Bautista
Robert Lastimoso
DJ Sanchez
Dino Directo
Giby Yalung
Aris Ilagan
Lyle Pareno
Eduardo Bulatao
Ernesto Laureano
Vernon Sarne
Jeff Reyes
Ray Domingo
Virginia Domingo
Jose Dizon
Wilfredo De Luna
Joel Papa
Romeo de Guzman
Carlos de Guzman

ISUZU CHALLENGE ISABELA

Aris Tan
Alexander Monforte
Ronald Rey delos Reyes
Ron delos Reyes
Nathaniel Cruz
Charles Buban
Babyruth Salvador
Robert Salvador
Julie Batugal
Christian Batugal
Romeo Nartia
Arceli Nartia
Henry Dy
Carter Baysa
Romy Gua
Watu Foronda
Andy Leuterio
Dong Magsajo
Ulderico Abrenica
Florencio Mercado
Samuel Pacunana
Sammy Pacunana
Ronnie Azurin
Freina Guerrero

ISUZU CHALLENGE CEBU

Anjo Perez
Erle Sebastian
Cecilio Tulda
Boy Enso
Lester Dizon
Edwin Esperanza
Pablo Balderona
Ruel Abellanosa
Shella Rogojos
Francisco Maribao
Allan Maribao
Aurora delos Reyes
Eleanor Sanchez
Ryan Tan
Carlo Sainz
Efren Manlosa
Rodolfo Estella

ISUZU CHALLENGE MANILA

Ronald Aguto Jr.
Roy Aguto
Popong Andolong
Bess Zamora
Norberto Evangelio
Cynthia Evangelio
Marjorie Wong
Tricia Lim
Rene Berdan
Daniel Berdan
Ronald Rodriguez
Victor Rodriguez
Doreen Juban
Evelyn Juban
Oscar Nuke
David Aquino
Arnold Tan
Ronald Chua
Mayo Almario
Cheeno/Loren Almario
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John Andrew Uy
Michael Gutierrez
Patrick Gutierrez
Jose Matza
Merlyn Matza
Marvin Paghangaan
Zith Ghantal Paghangaan

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Remember, the finals take you to a secret destination overnight, so be prepared for giving your best at the e-drive, the ultimate mission and the big celebration.

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Wounded Philippine eagle recovering

"MALIGAYA," the wounded Philippine eagle rescued in Quezon province late last week is slowly regaining strength, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources announced yesterday.

The unfolding survival story has surprised veterinarians at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City where the bird was transferred for treatment following the rescue on Friday.

X-ray results showed that the female bird had "a gun pellet lodged in her right wing and another inside its stomach cavity," the DENR said.

Despite this stressful condition, Maligaya's appetite is said to have improved. Her diet of dressed chicken was upped to 450 grams last Monday from 300 grams last Saturday when she was allowed to have her first monitored meal.

The vets are still studying whether surgery is needed to remove the pellets, according to Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

WRC resident veterinarian Steven Toledo said Maligaya would be placed under observation for six months. At the time of her admission, the bird weighed around six kilos. Her wingspan could not be measured due to the wounded wing.

Environmentalists and local government officials who retrieved the eagle named her after the remote village in the Sierra Madre mountains where she was found.

Two weeks prior to the rescue, the bird had fallen into a trap laid for wild boars by a local hunter. Acting on a tip from a certain Oliver Carsi-Cruz, Maligaya's "liberators" led by Mayor Leovegildo Ruzol of Gen. Nakar town "convinced" the hunter to turn over his precious catch. *Volt Contreras*

Longer hospital stay for Estrada

ESTRADA

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada will need to stay on at an Alabang hospital for three to four more days to undergo further tests for his "multiple slipped disc and arthritic knee" problems, the Philippine National Police informed the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

This immediately drew a strong protest from state prosecutors who said that Estrada's doctors may be exaggerating Estrada's health problems to extend the ousted president's 36-hour medical furlough granted by the anti-graft court.

"Since when has arthritis become an emergency medical concern?" said a prosecutor who asked not to be named.

Prospero Noble, the head of the PNP unit assigned to secure the ousted leader, yesterday sought the court's consent to extend Estrada's stay at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Estrada was brought to the Alabang hospital last Monday after medical tests at the Makati Medical Center showed that he was "suffering from multiple slipped discs at the lumbar section and torn ligaments at the left knee."

The tests were supposedly done by orthopedic surgeons under the supervision of Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, a Estrada relative who is also his personal physician.

Noble said he had been told by Estrada's doctors that the medical tests at the AHMC would last for three to four days.

He assured the court that Estrada would "remain under our tight guard and monitoring."

Hocson told court reporters that Estrada underwent some medical tests yesterday, adding that the jailed leader may have to stay at the Alabang hospital for another week.

"For now, we do not yet see the immediate need for surgery," he said in Filipino. *Armand Nocum*

Estanislao; 84

DR. ANGEL Payumo Estanislao, of Dinalupihan, Bataan, former head of the Cancer Department of the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, died Oct. 26 after a lingering illness. He was 84.

He left behind wife Natalia David-Estanislao, children Lita and Romy Reyes, Evelyn and Ante Pinili, Arcadio and Nori, Alex and Mary Grace, Jun and Claire; sisters Ines Enriquez, Carmen Reyes, Feny Lagman, Gliceria Odoy, Avelina Laxa, Iding Tulod, Lutie Constantino, Teresita, and Norma Simsuangco.

The body is at the Christ the King Chapel, Green Meadows, Q.C. Cremation on Oct. 31, after a 10 a.m. Mass.

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Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.75	2.45	1.70/tab
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Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓ 37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
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Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
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Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
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US Embassy still tops in visa issuance

THE US Embassy in Manila remains one of the largest US visa-issuing consulates despite recent modifications in visa processing to strengthen border control in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

"Our goal is to maintain secure borders while keeping our doors open to legitimate travelers," US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said.

Preliminary figures for fiscal year 2003 (Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2003) show that the US Embassy in Manila ranked second worldwide for immigrant visa issuance, and eighth for non-immigrant or temporary visas.

"Consular services are a critical mission of our Embassy. Our consular officers directly advance our Mission to revitalize the US-Philippine partnership and carry it to maturity by strengthening our mutual security; building mutual prosperity, and serving the American and Filipino public with excellence," the US envoy said.

In fiscal year 2002, the US Embassy issued a total of 31,404 immigrant visas and 159,170 non-immigrant visas, representing 8.1 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively, of total visas issued worldwide. "Behind these numbers are the millions of Americans and Filipinos nurturing the closest human ties that are the true strength of the relationship between our countries," Ricciardone explained.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 29, 2003
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:26-30
Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'

"Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

"You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside.

"Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

Commentary

"We know that in everything, God works for the good of those who love him, whom he has called according to his plan." Bonie was a man who thought he did not need the help of his brothers and sisters. His relationship with his siblings was cold and usually one-sided, he was always at the receiving end. One day, he got seriously ill and had to be hospitalized. He incurred big hospital expenses, at that moment, his brothers and sisters came one by one offering help even without him asking. His sickness was a blessing in disguise. Although he nearly died because of leptospirosis (a disease contracted because of rat urine), yet he was thankful because he realized his mistakes. Life is always a give and take, one cannot make it alone. He was happy to discover this lesson without being too late. In everything, God works for good ...

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES COMMITTED BY PUBLIC OFFICERS)—Conviction of malversation—Conviction for malversation of public funds or property under Art. 217 of the Revised Penal Code requires proof that (a) the offender is a public officer; (b) he has the custody or control of funds or property by reason of the duties of his office; (c) the funds or property involved are public funds or property for which he is accountable; and (d) he has appropriated, taken or misappropriated, or has consented to, or through abandonment or negligence permitted, the taking by another person of such funds or property. Petitioner was, at the time of the alleged commission of the crime, the cashier of the Integrated Provincial Health Office in Lucena City. She was found guilty pursuant to Art. 217 of the Revised Penal Code, which provides that "The failure of a public officer to have duly forthcoming any public funds or property with which he is chargeable, upon demand by any duly authorized officer, shall be prima facie evidence that he has put such missing funds or property to personal uses." This presumption is negated when the accused is able to present sufficient evidence that can nullify any likelihood that he had put the funds or property to personal use. Only the cash and accounts of petitioner were examined by the COA auditors. Such incomplete audit, which resulted in an alleged shortage that was attributed solely to petitioner's accountability, is susceptible to errors and inaccuracies. The prima facie presumption under Art. 217 of the Revised Penal Code arises only if there is no issue as to the accuracy, correctness, and regularity of the audit findings and if the fact that funds are missing is indubitably established. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Querijero vs People, G.R. No. 153483, February 14, 2003]

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 4404, SERIES OF 2003

Comelec extends voting registration deadline

By Martin Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections has extended the deadline for the registration of first-time voters and transferees from Oct. 31 to Nov. 9 to accommodate more qualified voters, it was announced yesterday.

"It is the desire of Comelec not to disenfranchise any qualified voter, thus we are reaching out to them and extending our calendar to enable a greater number of registrants to list up," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said in a statement.

Comelec offices nationwide, however, would be closed starting Friday, Oct. 31 up to Nov. 2, Sunday. Registration for first-time voters will resume Nov. 3, Monday.

Validation of voters' registration records, which was earlier suspended, will also resume Nov. 3 except in areas where the poll body has ongoing general registration of voters such as Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu.

The new schedule was finalized by the commission during an executive session yesterday.

Abalos said the commission is "in the thick of preparations" for the May 10, 2004 polls which for the first time will use both the manual and automated systems of voting.

The Comelec had earlier agreed to hold computerized elections using the Automated Counting Machines in the National Capital Region, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; in the five provinces of Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Rizal and Pampanga; and in the cities of Isabela, Cotabato, Baguio, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro.

The Comelec has decided to hold both manual and automated elections but the latter would be implemented in selected areas only, not nationwide as mandated by the law.

But Jose Concepcion, chairman of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), has warned of anarchy and massive cheating in the 2004 elections due to Comelec's decision to hold manual and computerized elections.

Based on the Comelec decision, automated polls would be held only in areas representing 35 percent of the total voting population.

Concepcion said that "trending" might result because of the decision to limit automation to only 10 areas.

The Comelec, he said, should not have limited computerized elections as the law explicitly said that the elections should be 100 percent automated.

But for Abalos, automated polls for 32 to 35 percent of the voting population was "enough."

As this developed, Concepción has appealed Comelec's decision rejecting Namfrel's bid to be accredited to do a quick count.

Abalos said that Namfrel will only be allowed to participate in voters' education but not in doing a quick count.

"We will not accredit them because they can't do it faster than we ... They should be happy because the Comelec was able to improve itself and spare them from the quick count," Abalos said.

Bidding for vote counters defended

THE BIDDING for the P1.3-billion election counting automation project conformed with the Constitution and the prevailing rules and regulations, the winning bidder said yesterday.

The Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. (MPEI), through its spokesperson Alfredo Lazaro Jr., insisted that the automated vote counting machines (ACMs) tested since September by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) was "working at 100-percent accuracy rate."

In a press statement, Lazaro noted that the new batches of equipment are now designed for a very humid environment and the quality of ballot paper for the actual election would be adapted to tropical conditions.

He said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) observed the bidding process before coming out with a decision to award the counting automation project to the consortium, which is composed of five information technology giants led by MPEI, ePLDT, WeSolv (subsidiary of Fujitsu Phils.), SKC & C of South Korea and US-based Election.com.

Lazaro said the supplier of the ACMs, SKC & C is South Korea's most advanced IT service provider. It provided the counting machines in the 2002 local and national elections in South Korea, which covered 50 million voters.

MPEI was one of the several IT companies that submitted a bid to the Comelec after the poll body released an invitation to bid on Jan. 28.

The bidding rules and regulations allowed manufacturers, suppliers and distributors to form themselves into a joint venture or consortium that will jointly undertake the project, Lazaro said.

"Given the complexity, costs and wide scope of the undertaking it would not qualify any entity, domestic or foreign, from being declared eligible in joining the envisioned bidding," Lazaro said.

Meanwhile, Lazaro said that although there were technical errors encountered in nine of the first 30 units tested by the DOTC, it was immediately corrected and subsequently passed a retest last September.

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DFA exec sacked over drunken GIs incident

A JUNIOR cabinet official was sacked yesterday following a dispute with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople over alleged preferential treatment to visiting US servicemen.

Amado Valdez, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), said Ople was behind his removal after he called for a probe on US troops allegedly involved in a drunk-driving incident in the southern city of Zamboanga.

The VFA is a treaty that provides the legal framework for the allies to conduct large-scale joint military maneuvers. The agreement has been criticized by nationalist groups as an encroachment into the country's sovereignty.

Valdez charged that Ople had also "gagged me" in making statements that could be detrimental to the US-Philippines military relations, which President George W. Bush has praised as a bedrock of stability in the region.

"I demanded an investigation report and the identity of the servicemen. We want to prosecute these people but there has been no more private initiative to file a criminal complaint. It has been settled," Valdez said.

Sources said several US servicemen were allowed to leave camp in Zamboanga on Sept. 14. The soldiers later tried to drive back to base drunk and smashed into a grocery store, although there were no injuries.

"I would like to bring the matter to the Senate for investigation and I demand the resignation of Secretary Ople if he could not defend his position," Valdez told reporters.

Malacañang declined to comment on Valdez's sacking. *AFP*

Senate stalls DFA budget

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday caused the halting of deliberations on the proposed P4.8-billion budget for the Department of Foreign Affairs in protest of a memorandum issued by the department which, he said, blocked the implementation of the Dual Citizenship Act.

Drilon, principal author of the law that allows Filipinos abroad to reacquire their Philippine citizenship, vowed to block the passage of the budget until the DFA scrapped the memorandum issued by Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis last month.

He described the Seguis memo as "unauthorized and illegal" because it instructed Philippine embassies and consulates to accept as applicants for Philippine citizenship only those who would register as absentee voters.

But the registration period for absentee voters ended last Sept. 30, Drilon noted, and the memo now made it impossible for others to take their oath as Filipino citizens. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Luisita workers reject stock plan

by Norman Bordadora

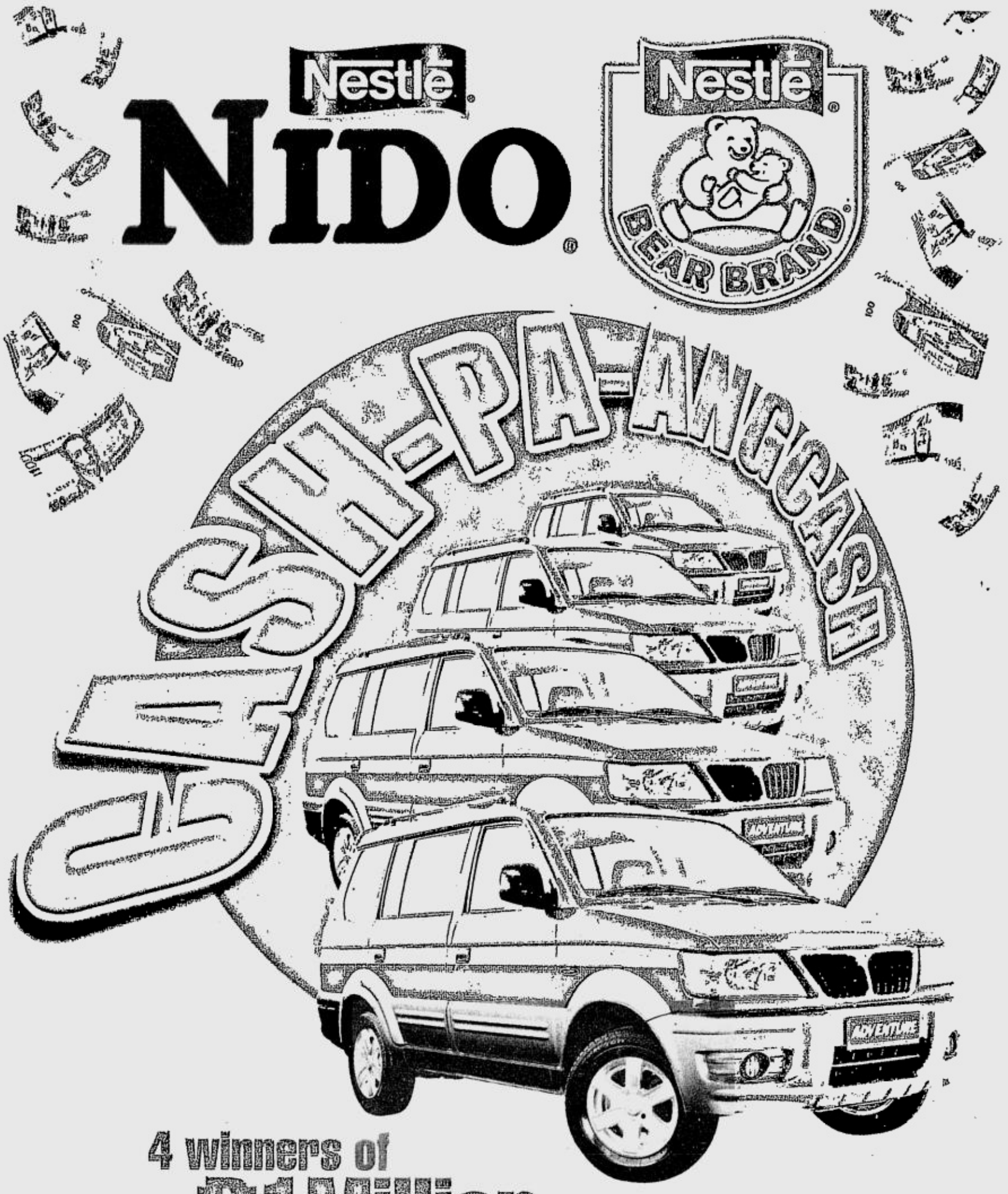
MORE than 300 farmers from the Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino family owned Hacienda Luisita yesterday staged a camp-out in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City, demanding the junking of the Stock Distribution Option under the non-land transfer scheme of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Ben Pampoza, chair of the Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (Ambala), said, "it is high-time that this burdensome SDO scheme be junked. The SDO has instead strengthened the monopoly and control of the Cojuangcos to the land our forefathers have long tilled."

"We have fed the Cojuangcos with multibillion pesos in profit while our families live in poverty," he said.

Pampoza said that while Luisita farmers continue to be mired in poverty, the 6,453-hectare hacienda has become the seat and fount of the economic fortunes of the Cojuangcos.

"Companies within the hacienda enable them to reap millions of pesos in profit. These include the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, Tarlac Development Corp., Jose Cojuangco & Sons Inc., Luisita Marketing Corp. and Tarlac Distillery Corporation," Pampoza said.



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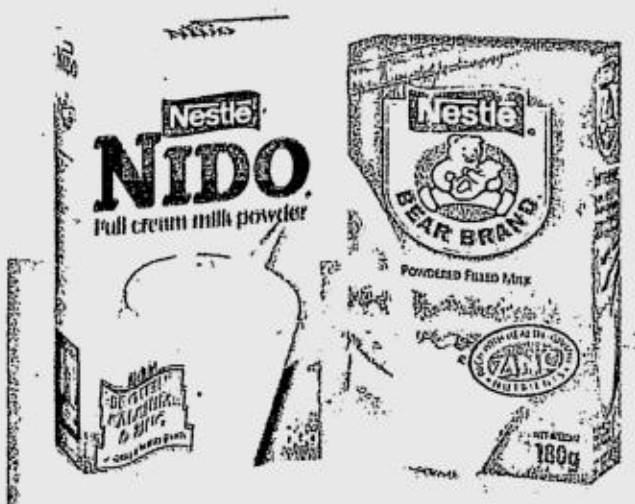

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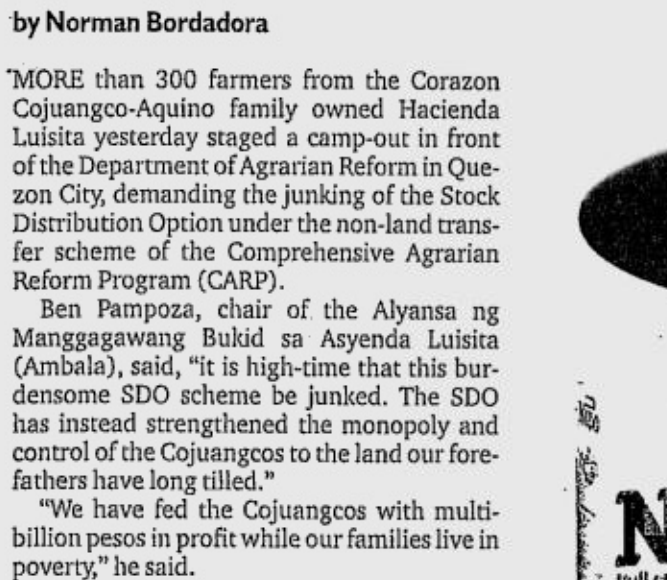

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

4 more US soldiers wounded in ambushes

BAGHDAD—Four American soldiers were wounded near the northern city of Mosul, the military said Tuesday, as US officials urged aid groups to keep working in Iraq after suicide bombers struck the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations in Baghdad.

The suicide attacks on Monday killed about three dozen people and caused foreign organizations to weigh their role in the insurgency-plagued nation. It was the bloodiest day in the Iraqi capital since the end of major combat six months ago.

Just hours after the attacks in Baghdad, two US patrols were ambushed Monday night near Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, which in the past has been relatively peaceful.

One soldier was wounded when insurgents attacked his convoy in southeastern Mosul and three others were injured, one seriously, when their patrol was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons in the town of Tal Afar, just west of Mosul, the US command said.

The brazen and deadly attacks in Baghdad, including a rocket barrage Sunday on a hotel where Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying, attested to the spike in resistance by opponents of the American occupation.

The attacks also shook the confidence of international organizations which were taking part in the reconstruction of Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged the Red Cross and other nongovernment organizations—as well as foreign contractors and the United Nations—to stay in Iraq.

US DEPUTY Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and US soldiers patrol the streets of Baghdad following the rocket barrage on the Al Rasheed Hotel. AFP

"They are needed. Their work is needed. And if they are driven out, then the terrorists win," Powell said Monday in Washington.

Antonella Notari, chief spokesperson at ICRC headquarters in Geneva, said no decision had been taken whether to evacuate non-Iraqi staff from Iraq. Twelve of the dead in Monday's attacks were killed in a car-bombing outside the Red Cross office in a quiet street in central Baghdad.

However, the German TV network ARD quoted the head of the ICRC delegation in Iraq as saying the evacuation of Red Cross personnel would begin Tuesday.

The three-story Red Cross headquarters in Baghdad was empty on the day after the bombing, with staffers being ordered to remain at home. All the windows were broken and large cracks were visible across the building's facade. Workers and residents were cleaning up the debris on the street and trying to drain a pool of water caused by a ruptured water main.

The attacks on Monday occurred at the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and left scenes of broken bodies, twisted wreckage and Iraqis unnerved by an escalating underground war. The dead included eight Iraqi policemen, at least 26 Iraqi civilians and a US soldier.

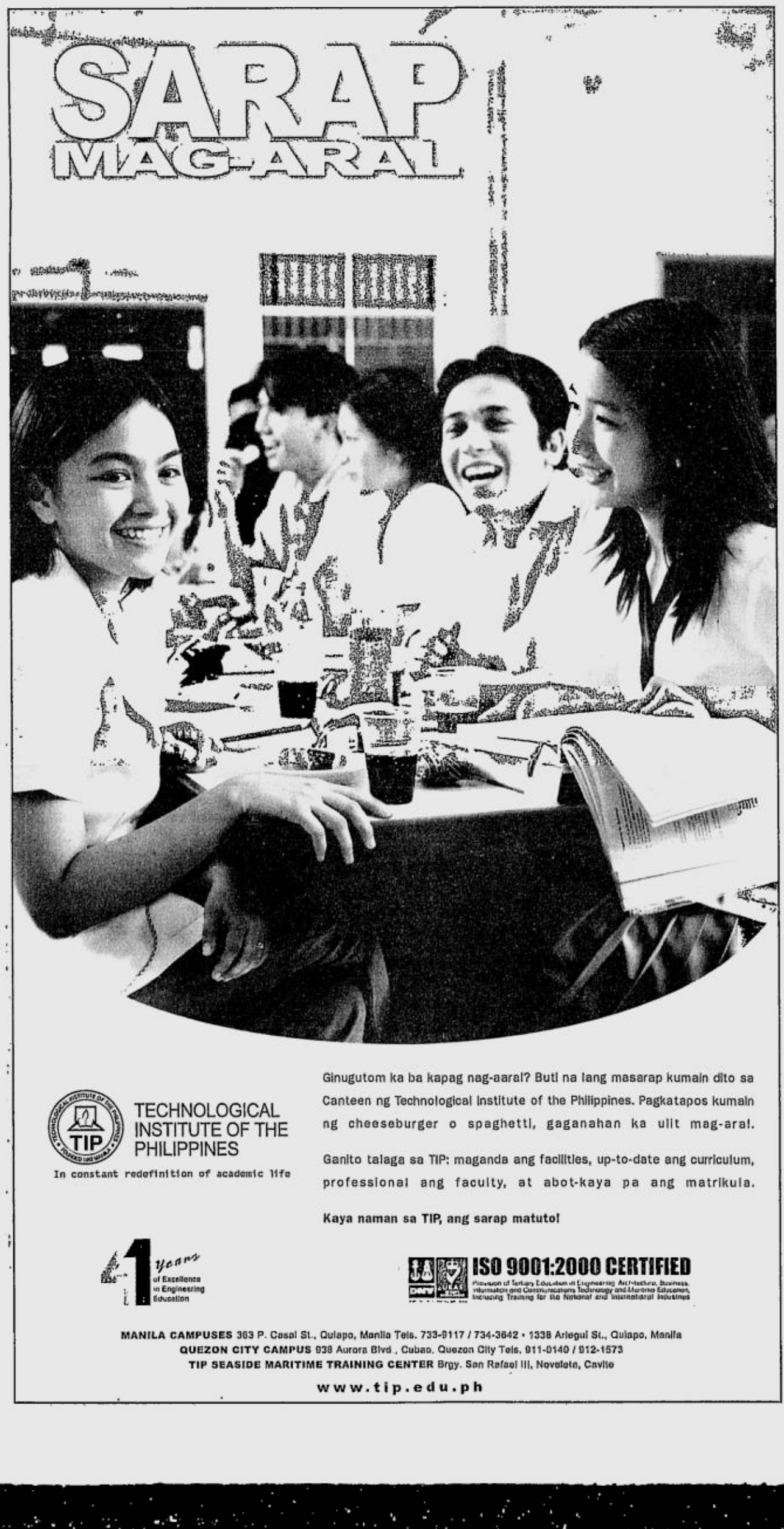
Iraqi policemen foiled a fourth attack on a precinct in the capital's eastern suburbs by snatching an attacker before he could detonate explosives installed in his car. The man set off a grenade, and shouted "Death to the Iraqi police! You're collaborators" when he was seized.

It is uncertain what groups carried out the attacks. In Baghdad, US and Iraqi officials blamed foreign fighters intent on targeting those who cooperate with the American-led occupation. The captured would-be bomber was said to carry a Syrian passport.

In Washington, however, Pentagon officials said they believed loyalists of ousted President Saddam Hussein were responsible. US President George W. Bush said insurgents had become more "desperate" because of what he said was progress in Iraq.

A spokesperson for the coalition, Charles Heatly said it was difficult to speculate who was behind the attacks. He told the British Broadcasting Corp. that "there certainly are indications that there are foreign terrorists who are coming into Iraq" but did not explicitly accuse them of responsibility.

"It's been something we've been concerned about for a while, and if we have to fight them here, we will fight them here," Heatly said. *AP*



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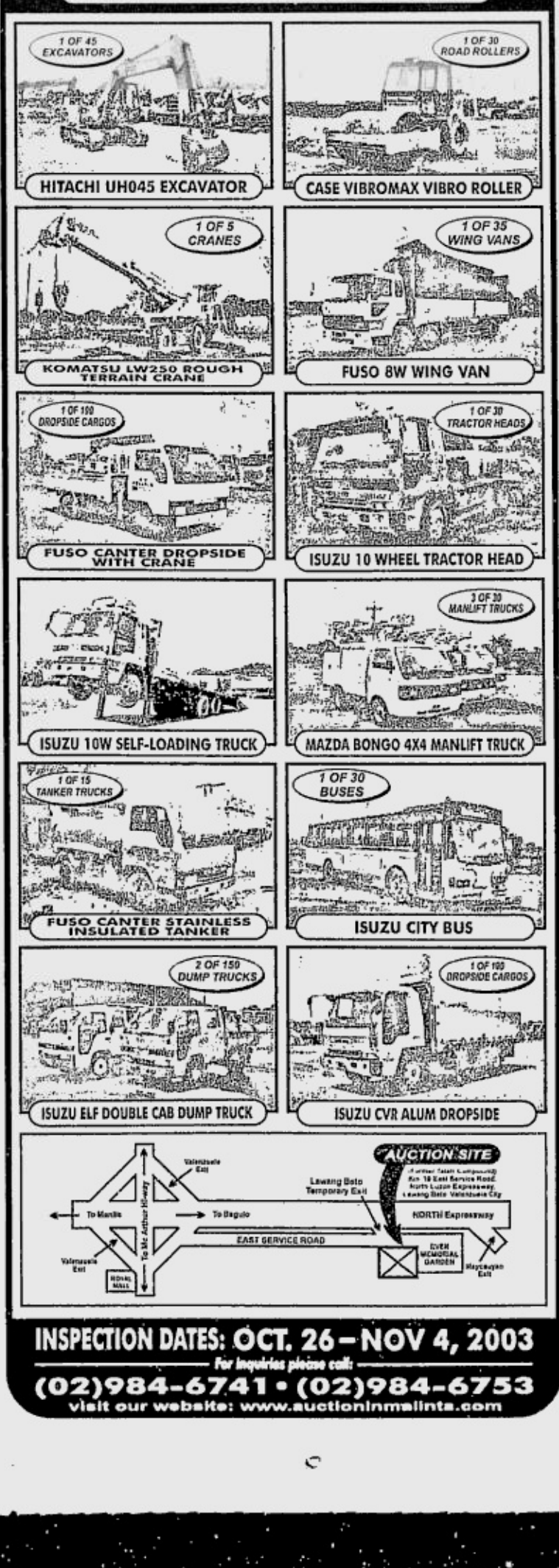

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Thai exec meted out 15 years for graft

BANGKOK — Thailand's Supreme Court on Tuesday sentenced in absentia a former health minister to 15 years in prison for taking bribes from a pharmaceutical company.

Rakkiat Sukthana has been missing since Sept. 19, the original date for the verdict, and an arrest warrant has been issued for him. The court had given him until Tuesday to show up.

Rakkiat was convicted of accepting $125,000 from TNP Health Care in exchange for ordering government hospitals to purchase medicine from the company at 10 times their normal price.

Rakkiat was health minister from 1997 to 1999 when he was forced to resign after allegations that he accepted kickbacks emerged.

"From the defendant's behavior and the documents, it's clear the defendant is guilty as charged whether it was bribery or canceling the medicines' median price leading to the plaintiff's damages," said the written judgment.

The case against Rakkiat was part of an extensive corruption investigation after the National Counter Corruption Commission found that Rakkiat had failed to declare millions of baht worth of cash and real estate in a mandatory filing for Cabinet ministers.

The NCCC, an independent official body, said his wealth most likely came from corruption.

The Constitutional Court on Sept. 16 found him guilty of concealing assets and banned him from holding office for five years. *AP*

Tariff Reform Program:

A suicidal policy

IN 1981, the Philippines embarked on a unilateral tariff reduction program ironically called the Tariff Reform Program (TRP). Consisting of four phases, it was initiated by the Marcos regime and continued by the four succeeding administrations. Its implementation intensified by the mid-1990s when average MFN tariff rates plunged from 19.72% in 1994 to 9.98% in 1999. By 2001, average MFN tariff rates were at 7.71 % compared to Thailand's 16%.*

On 1 January 2004, by virtue of Executive Order No. 334 issued by then President Joseph Estrada, the final phase of the TRP would be completed with 97% of all Philippine MFN tariff rates targeted to be indiscriminately slashed to 0-5%.

*Applicable to goods from non-ASEAN countries such as developed countries like the US, EU, Japan and China

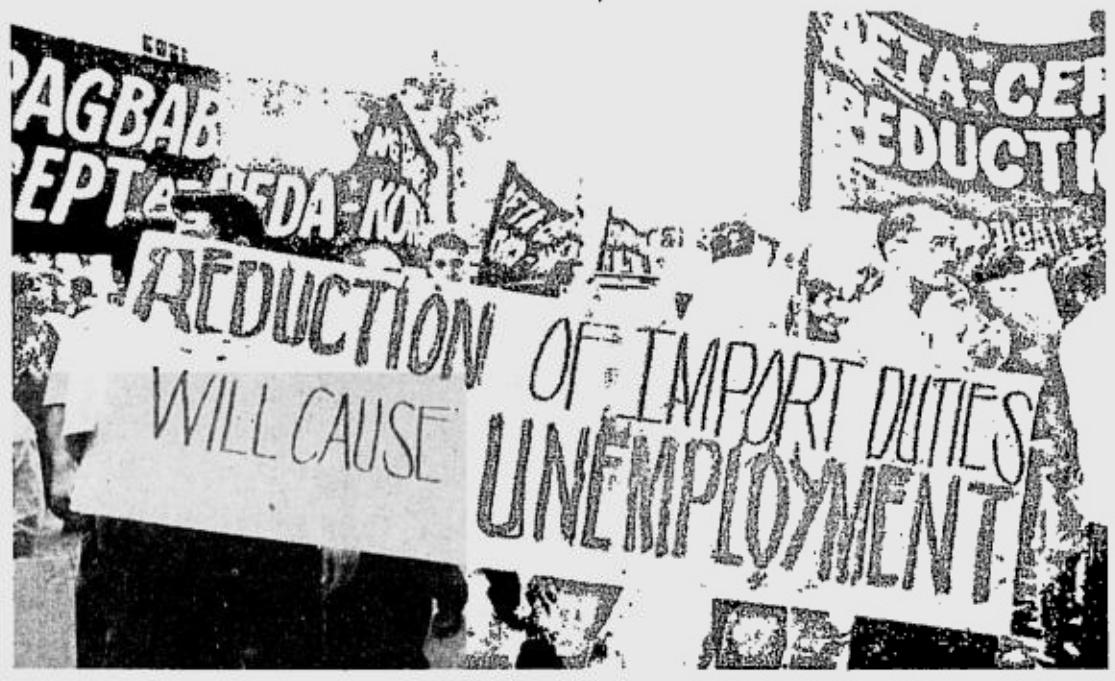
Tariff reduction kills jobs

THE UNILATERAL tariff reduction program, implemented despite the 1997 Asian crisis, has resulted in the massive flooding of imports. Local producers were forced to contend with not only high power costs and ballooning debts but also unfairly priced or subsidized surplus foreign goods.

In an unfair playing field where the odds are stacked heavily against them, Philippine industries collapsed causing massive job losses.

Consider the disturbing figures from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE):

- The ranks of laid-off workers continue to rise from 67,624 in 2000 to 71,864 in 2001 to 77,601 in 2002
- 540,000 Filipino workers lost their jobs as of July 2003
- Unemployment increased from 3.8 million in 2002 to 4.35 million in July 2003
- The number of companies that closed shop increased by 27% from 2,258 firms in 2000 to 2,859 in 2001 and went up further by 15% to 3,296 in 2002



Tariff reduction means deficit, new taxes and more debts

IRONICALLY, while the proponents of indiscriminate unilateral tariff reductions have been quick to trumpet its alleged benefits, they are blind to the injurious effects of tariff reductions.

Since the implementation of the tariff reduction program, the Philippine Government has suffered revenue losses due to deteriorating collections in tariff duties. On the average, tariff duty collections have decreased from 5.3% of the Gross National Product in 1993, to a mere 2.7% in 2000.

Bureau of Customs tariff collections plummeted from P255 billion in 1996 when the average MFN tariff was at 15.55% to P109.6 billion in 2001 when the average MFN tariff was reduced to 7.71%. As a result, in 2001, the Philippine budget deficit was at P147 billion. In 2002, the Philippine budget deficit further ballooned to P212.7 billion.

Instead of rationalizing tariff rates, new and more taxes are imposed on Filipinos like value-added taxes that are ultimately borne by the consumers. Even sick Filipinos have to pay more for medical services!

Instead of reversing the TRP that is causing serious economic and social costs to our nation, more debts are incurred to fund a deficit that can be addressed by a rational tariff structure. The country's outstanding debt has now reached P5 trillion!

If this is not reversed, it will mean the loss of basic services such as public education and public health as well as the lack of funds to improve our infrastructure — condemning us to poverty and uncompetitiveness!

Scrap the tariff reduction program and amend EO 334! Defend our jobs and future!

WE CAN REVERSE this tariff reduction program. Trade must be fair... not free! The tariff reduction program is not part of our commitments under the WTO. We did it to ourselves. While our industries and agriculture struggled to survive with structural problems like high power costs and lack of infrastructure, unfairly priced and subsidized goods poured into our market. Our local industries collapsed. Our workers lost their jobs. Our farmers drowned from the flood of subsidized imports.

While we opened our markets wholesale, Philippine products from pineapples to bananas, from cement to tuna, are unfairly being blocked from entering foreign markets.

Let us end the agony we inflicted upon ourselves. Let us preserve the future of our country. It is time to correct the defective and suicidal economic policies that we unilaterally imposed upon ourselves.

The time to act is now while WTO negotiations have not yet led to new reduction commitments. The failure of the Cancun negotiations gave us a temporary breathing space and a historic opportunity to institute strategic adjustments on our tariff and economic policies grounded on our national interest. In the interregnum, we must rebuild our productive capacity so we can become winners in a globalized trading environment especially in light of the 2020 ASEAN commitments.

The FAIR TRADE ALLIANCE calls for the following:

1. **The immediate scrapping of the unilateral Tariff Reform Program;**
2. **The immediate amendment of EO 334 to grant petitions of local industries and farmers to increase tariff rates on their goods while reverting tariff rates on selected locally produced or substitutable products to 1994 levels;**
3. **Establish a comprehensive national industrialization and agriculture development program that calibrates the country's entry into the globalized trading environment;**
4. **Strengthen and strictly implement all safety nets such as safeguard law, anti-dumping and countervailing duties;**
5. **Combat smuggling and other unfair trade practices;**
6. **Reduce the costs of power, transportation, agricultural materials and other vital inputs that stunted the growth and competitiveness of local industries and agriculture;**
7. **Uphold national food security by scrapping the tariffication of rice, corn and vegetables and maintain protective tariffs on agricultural products until developed countries give up their unfair subsidies;**
8. **Allow liberal tariff reductions only in industrial raw materials not produced or substitutable locally.**
9. **Advocate a "Buy Filipino" mindset, premised on the fact that for every imported article that we buy that is locally available, we threaten the job of a Filipino worker. It is the responsibility of every Filipino to help a fellow Filipino.**

FAIR TRADE NOT FREE TRADE!

Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) other groups and personalities

• **Wigberto Tañada**, Lead Convenor, Fair Trade Alliance (FTA)

• **Meneleo Carlos**, Chairman, Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) • Arsenio Tangco, Director, FPI • Renato Ermita, Director, FPI • Edison Coseteng, FPI • Wilfredo A. Paras, Chairperson, Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers' of the Philippines (APMP) • Henry C. Leung, President, APMP • Jong Sereno, Executive Director, APMP • Vic Sabiniano, President, Samahan ng Magsasapatos sa Pilipinas (SMP) • Enrico Alfiler, President, Cement Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines (CEMAP) • Edcel Lagman, Vice President for External Affairs, CEMAP • Antonio Arrobio, Executive Director, Philippine Steelmakers' Association (PSA) • Miguel del Rosario, VP for Business Relations, United Pulp Paper Corporation (UPPC) • Freddie de Leon, Director, Philippine Rubber Industry Association (PRIA) • Antonio Garcia, President, Chemphil Group • Jose Raul P. Barredo, General Manager, Chemphil Albright & Wilson Corp. • Jose C. Fernandez, Jr., General Manager, LMG Chemicals Corp. • Ramon Y. Navarro, General Manager, Kemwater Philippines Corp. • Atty. Ben Subido, Association of Laguna Technopark-Human Resource Practitioners

• **Atty. Ernesto Arellano**, President, National Federation of Labor (NFL) • David Diwa, Jr., Vice-President, National Labor Union (NLU) • Antonio V. Policarpio, Chairman, Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center (LMLC) • Ramon Jabar, Federation of Free Workers (FFW) • Oscar M. Oceron, President, Alyansa ng Malayang Obrero • Mike Pacres, Adviser, Kapatiran ng Kristong Manggagawa Inc. (KKMI) • Angel Mendoza, Lead Coordinator and Co-Convenor, Plastics Unions Labor Alliance (PULA) • Carlito Rallistan, President, Association of Democratic Labor Organization (ADLO) • Leto Villar, President, Association of Genuine Labor Organization (AGLO) • Atty. Jaime Miralles, Executive Vice President, AGLO • Bayani Diwa, President, United Filipino Service Workers (UFSW) • Willy dela Cruz, President, National Federation of Labor Union (NAFLU) • Manny Arias, Vice President, NAFLU • Domeng Mamangon, General Secretary, NAFLU • Francisco P. Mero, President, Automotive Industry Workers Association (AIWA) • Florentino Cruz, National President, Philippine Association of Federated Labor Unions (PAFLU) • Zoilo dela Cruz, President, National Confederation of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines (NACUSIP) • Rupert Bragado, Vice President, NACUSIP • Atty. Potenciano Flores, Jr., Chairperson, Nagmamalasakit ng Manananggol ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Inc. (MANANANGGOL INC.) • Pastor G. Tabinas, National President, Nagkakaisang Lakas Manggagawa (NLM) • Alfredo M. Pullarca, National President, Union Impresores de Filipinas (UIF) • Primo Amparo, National Chairperson, MAKABAYAN • Alert and Concerned Employees of AG&P (ACE AG&P – NFL) • Samahan ng Manggagawa sa Karayom Garments Manufacturing, Inc. (SMKGI – NFL) • Bisig ng Manggagawa sa RCPI (BMRCPI – NFL) • Bylsons Employees Union (ABELU – NFL) • Pepsi – Cola Employees Union (PCEU – NFL) • Philtranco Employees Labor Union (PELU – NFL) • Pampanga II Electric Cooperative Employees Union (PEU – NFL) • Lakas Manggagawa ng Gelmart (LMG – NFL) • Dasmariñas Paper Mills Inc. Employees Union (DPMIEU – NFL) • Samahan ng Manggagawa sa Baliwag Transit, Inc. (SMBTI – NFL) • Star Paper Workers Union (SPWU – NFL) • Daniel Bayan, President, Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Valenzuela Tannery – AGLO • Manolito Macatangay, President, Samahang Manggagawa sa Interpolymer – AGLO • Vicente Gacos, President, Mayer Steel Pipe Employees Union – AGLO • Efren K. Vanzuela, President, Samahang Manggagawa sa Moldex – AGLO • Hernie Tonquin, President, Samahang Manggagawa ng Flexible – AGLO • Roberto Parejo, President, Manly Plastic Workers' Union – AGLO • Roger Bersabe, President, Goodyear Steel Pipe Employees Union – AGLO • Bienvenido Fajardo, President, Samahang Manggagawa ng Globe Keng Hua – AGLO • Medel Condino, President, Samahang Manggagawa ng Colby – AGLO • Rener Moncada, President, Samahang Manggagawa ng All – Inclusive Sales / William Parts – AGLO • Alfredo Manas, President, Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Candyman – AGLO • Renato Ernacio, President, Lulu Taxi Independent Labor Union • Reynaldo Serrano, President, Pinag-isang Lakas ng mga Manggagawa, Driver at Mekaniko sa Saigon Naff – Off – Piss – Pot Taxi • Roberto Durarun, MAKAPA – ARMSCOR • William Abad, Solvic Independent Labor Union • Deogracia Viray, Liberty Flour Mills Workers Union • Pete Pinlac, President, Manggagawa sa Komunikasyon ng Pilipinas (MKP – PLDT)

• **Rene Ofreneo**, UP SOLAIR • Isagani Serrano, Senior Vice President, Philippine Rural Reconstruction (PRRM) • Ernesto Ordoñez, Chairperson, Agriwatch • CONVERGENCE for Community Centered Area Development (CONVERGENCE) • Rural Enlightenment and Accretion in Philippine Society Foundation (REAPS Inc.) • Milo Tanchuling, Executive Director, Philnet RDI • Tony Villasor, Asia Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD) • Billy dela Rosa, AFRIM • Patricia Fe Gonzales, Management and Organizational Development for Empowerment (MODE) • Ana Marie R. Nemenzo, Womanhealth - Philippines • Raul Segovia, Citizens' Action for Consumer Protection (CACP) • Nymia Simbulan, Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights) • Bernie Zaragosa, Bayanihan Spirit • Rodolfo Salas, Serve the People Inc.

• **Steve Quiambao**, Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment (PEACE) Foundation • Romulo "Ka Muloy" Tapayan Sr., Secretary General, Kalipunan ng Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas (KAMMPIL) • Vic Ujano, Katipunan ng mga Samahan ng Maralitang Mamamayan sa Kanayunan (KASAMA KA) • James Kenept, Paracelis Mt. Province Federation of Farmers Association • Cornelio Matias, Mt. Province Vegetable Farmers Association • Jeremy Ducay, Alliance towards a Society - Conscious and Environment Focused National Development (ASCEND), Inc. • Erlinda Abad, President, Union of Growers and Traders of Onion in the Philippines (UGAT) • Willy U. Co, Director, Philippine Seed industry Association (PSIA) • Dante M. Balbas, President, PSIA • Elmer Ian Belen, Vice President, PSIA • Emmanuel A. Belen, Board Member, Pest Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) • Pamela Ong Chan, President, PMAP • Herdi Malveda, President, Crop Protection Association of the Philippines (CPAP)

• **Fr. Ben Moraleda**, CSsR, Co – Chairperson, JPICC – AMRSP • Atty. Jude B. Ocampo, Professorial Lecturer on the Law of the WTO, College of Law, University of the Philippines • Domingo M. Non, Ph. D, Executive Director, Social Health Environment and Development Foundation, Inc., General Santos City

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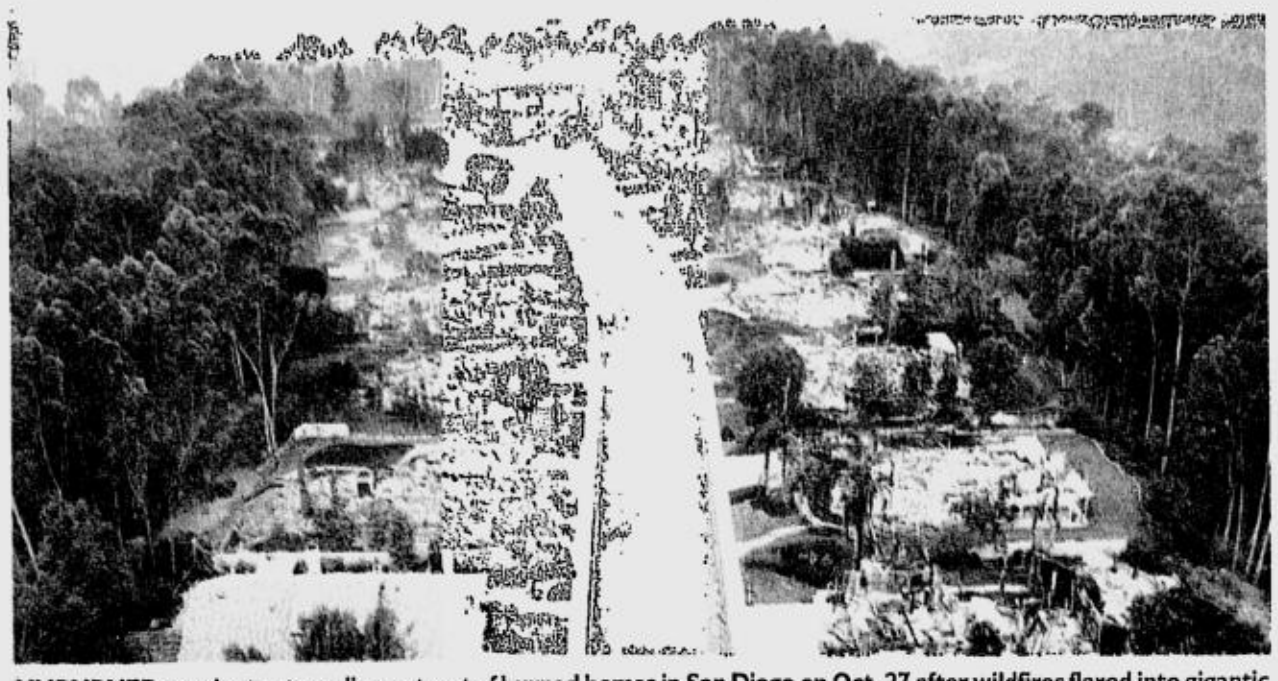
Advt.

Wildfires threaten 30,000 more homes in California



UNBURNED eucalyptus trees line a street of burned homes in San Diego on Oct. 27 after wildfires flared into gigantic waves of flame. AP

SAN DIEGO—Ash fell on the beach like snow as California's deadliest outbreak of fires in more than a decade destroyed more than 1,100 homes, killed at least 15 people and consumed land from south of the Mexican border to the suburbs north of Los Angeles.

Several more people suffered burns and smoke inhalation, including eight hospitalized Monday at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center. Two had burns over more than 55 percent of their bodies, spokesperson Eileen Callahan said.

The fires were also burning south of the border, where two people were killed in a fire near the Mexican coastal city of Ensenada that destroyed about 15 homes. Baja California civil defense director, Gabriel Gomez Ruiz, said several hundred people were evacuated around Ensenada, about 80 km south of the border.

Managers of California's power grid estimated that 70,000 to 85,000 Southern California customers were without electricity because fires had damaged transmission lines.

President George W. Bush designated the fire-stricken region a major disaster area, opening the door to grants, loans and other aid to residents and businesses.

"This is a devastating fire and it's a dangerous fire. And we're prepared to help in any way we can," Bush said Monday at the White House.

"This will be the most expensive fire in California history, both in loss of property and the cost of fighting it," said Dallas Jones, director of the state Office of Emergency Services.

California Gov. Gray Davis, who toured the fire area in San Bernardino County, moved to activate the National Guard and summon help from neighboring states. He predicted the cost of the fires would be in the billions.

More than 200,000 hectares were charred in Southern California, authorities said. Mexican authorities reported that nearly 1,600 hectares of mainly brush land were consumed over the last two days.

Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger, who had a fire briefing in Ventura County, thanked Bush for swiftly declaring an emergency and said he would go to Washington on Tuesday to meet with federal officials "to make sure that the federal money will come through."

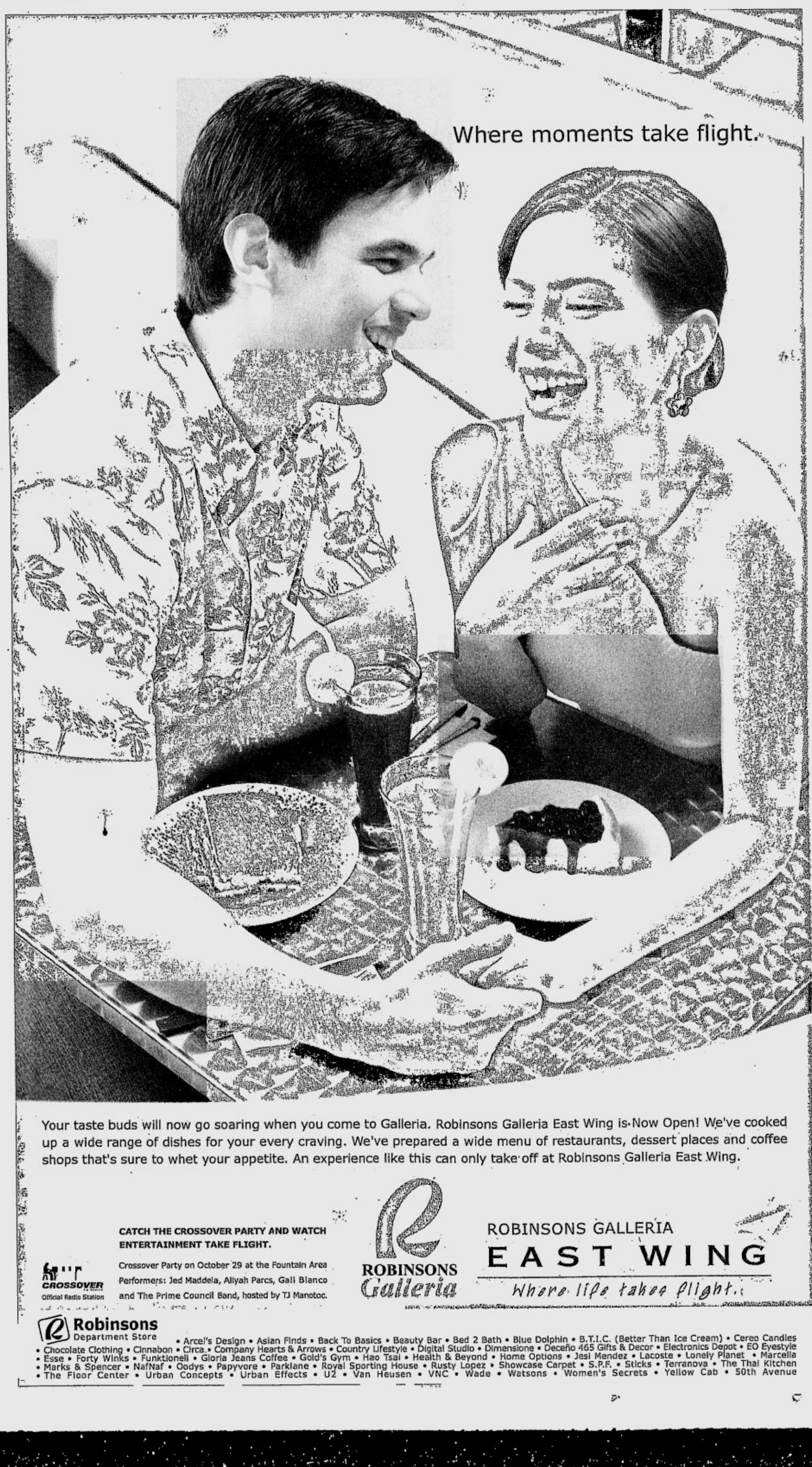
The death toll jumped from 13 to 15 on Monday after the bodies of two people were found on a road near San Diego.

Many of those who died in the wildfires ignored evacuation orders and were caught by flames because they waited until the last minute to flee, Sheriff Bill Kolender said.

A 36,000-hectare wildfire that straddles the Los Angeles-Ventura county line began moving slowly toward million-dollar mansions in a gated community in Los Angeles. California Department of Forestry Battalion Chief Thomas Foley said that in a "worst-case scenario," the blaze could spread all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

US Rep. Duncan Hunter said his home near San Diego was among the hundreds damaged or destroyed. Further east, a small border crossing 113 km from San Diego was closed as fire cut off roads leading to the US-Mexico border, said Vince Bond of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

The dry, hot Santa Ana winds that have fanned the flames began to ease in some areas Monday, raising hopes that overwhelmed firefighters could make progress with the help of reinforcements on their way from other Western states. But the danger was still high. *AP*



WORLDBRIEFS

Back to Earth

ARKALYK, Kazakhstan—A Soyuz space capsule carrying an American, a Russian and a Spaniard to Earth from the International Space Station on Tuesday landed smoothly and on target in Kazakhstan, but bad weather delayed the crew's return to Moscow. The 3 1/2-hour trip to Earth was only the second time that a US astronaut has come home in a Russian craft and landed on foreign soil. Since the disintegration of the space shuttle Columbia in February put Nasa manned space flights on hold, the Russian Soyuz capsules have been the linchpin of the space station program. *AP*

West Bank pigs

JERUSALEM—Rabbis in Israel have been asked to approve plans to train pigs to guard West Bank settlements in a bid to thwart would-be Palestinian attackers from gaining "martyrdom," the Maariv daily said Tuesday. Directors of the Gdud Haivri, an organization which supplies guard dogs to settlements in the West Bank, believe that pigs' more developed sense of smell will enable them to sniff out militants who hide before launching attacks. *AFP*

Kidnapped tourists

BOGOTA—Colombia's ELN rebels have agreed to release seven kidnapped foreign tourists starting next week, as long as one of their jailed leaders is allowed to be part of a delegation due to greet them, a negotiator said. The National Liberation Army (ELN) said it was willing to hand over the first of the hostages to a commission of United Nations and Roman Catholic Church representatives plus two ELN leaders, one of them still in jail, Monsignor Hector Fabio Henao said on Monday. *AFP*

Lottery winners

ROSEVILLE, Minnesota—They waited until the students got their lunch, then 15 school cooks and one janitor who each put a quarter into a lottery pool came forward on Monday night as the holders of a Powerball lottery ticket worth more than $95 million. The women started their first Monday as millionaires back on the school lunch line where they fed the students in the tiny Holdingford School District before hopping a bus to the state lottery headquarters to claim their prize. "It was really tough to be concentrating on the meal," said winner Karen Overman. "I know there's a need for news conferences in the morning, but we've got breakfast to put out." The school workers bought one of two winning tickets for the $190.9 million Powerball jackpot. No one has claimed a second ticket that was sold in a small southwestern Indiana town. *AP*

Running out of time

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia—Rescuers at a coal mine in southern Russia had hours left Tuesday to save 13 miners believed trapped for the fifth day, as they got to within meters of the spot where they believe the men are. Crews were hewing their way through a coal seam to the place in the Zapadnaya mine where the men were thought to have taken refuge after icy water flooded the shafts where they were working on Thursday last week. *AFP*

Kashmir explosions

SRINAGAR, India—Two Indian soldiers were killed and 44 other people injured in two explosions in Indian Kashmir on Tuesday, marking a bloody start to the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, police said. Two soldiers were killed and eight others injured when an army vehicle, part of a convoy, ran over a land mine in the village of Khilani in southern Doda district, police said. *AFP*

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LEARNING FROM SPIDERS

Casual dating may be dangerous

WASHINGTON—Mate or meal: A female wolf spider's first exposure to courting could mean life or death for her later lovers.

In many animal species—including humans—adolescent females are often exposed to the courtship advances of older males, observed researcher Eileen A. Hebets of Cornell University. Those experiences can affect how the female reacts to similar advances when she grows up.

In the case of wolf spiders, Hebets found that immature females encountering a courting male preferred when they reached mating age to mate with males who looked like those they had met as youngsters. And, they were more likely to attack and eat unfamiliar males than to mate with them, Hebets found.

While several studies have shown that such youthful experiences affect adult mating behavior in larger animals, this is the first to show the effect in invertebrates—animals without backbones—Hebets said in this week's online issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"I think everyone is surprised" by the finding, she said. People generally think of spiders as simple creatures and don't expect them to learn and remember.

From the scientific viewpoint, she said, the behavior is interesting because it shows a way females make a mate choice and can drive the evolution of male traits.

Learning how mate choices are developed may shed light on why larger species and even people tend to prefer one type of mate over another, she said.

In Hebets' experiment, she placed immature female spiders in a plastic box on a paper that contained the scent of a mature female spider. Then she introduced a male spider, which sensed the scent and went into its ritual mating movements, observed by the younger female.

Male wolf spiders have either black or brown forelegs. Hebets accented this with nail polish—Cover Girl midnight metal or bronze ice—exposing 81 females to males with either black or brown legs.

Weeks later, after the females had a final molt and were old enough to mate, Hebets again placed them with males.

When females were placed with a male with the same leg color they had seen as youngsters they mated between 40 percent and 50 percent of the time and ignored the others.

But when they were placed with a male of the opposite leg color they only mated about 10 percent of the time, but they attacked and ate the males twice to three times as often.

It's not unheard of for female wolf spiders to cannibalize their mates, Hebets said, but it usually occurs after mating. In the experiment they attacked before mating, almost as though they didn't recognize the different colored males as the same species, Hebets said. They did not attack the males with the familiar leg color. *AP*

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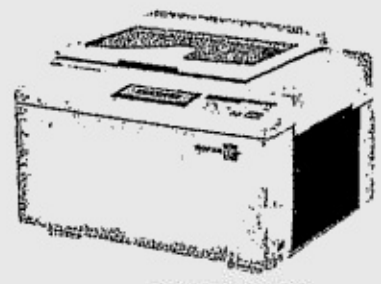
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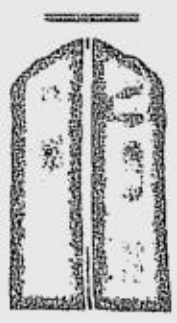
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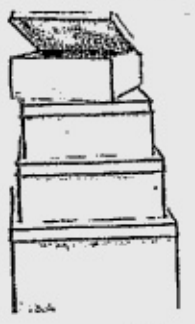
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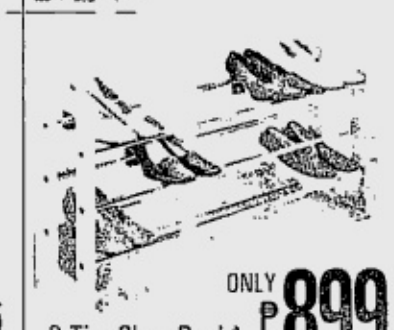
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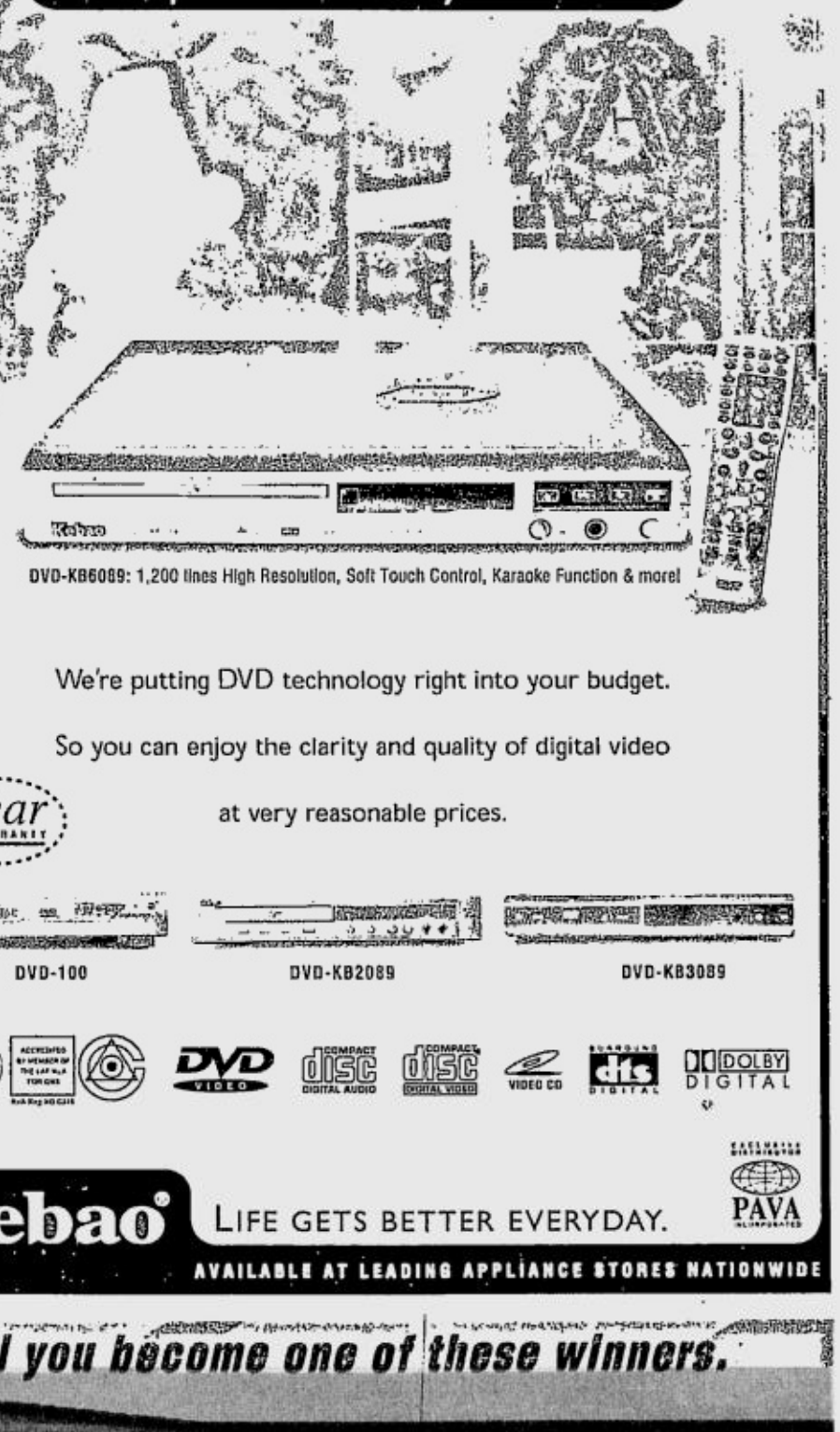
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All about power

EDITORIAL

WE were challenged. We were provoked. So we had to impeach him.

This was how Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla summed up the events that brought the House of Representatives on a collision course with the Supreme Court and that now threaten to plunge the country into a constitutional crisis. If that sounds like a bully's excuse for attacking somebody in a back alley, that is exactly what those congressmen who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. are beginning to sound to the rest of the country. And Remulla, a former television reporter, got his facts correct.

So young, so petty and so completely corrupted by power. That is what Remulla, like so many of his colleagues in the House, is showing himself to be. And their number, of course, includes the prime movers behind the Davide impeachment, Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro and Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella.

Many of their elders are just as full of themselves and jealous of their power. Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, for instance, said Davide "had it coming. This is a consequence of (his) arrogance."

But look who is complaining about arrogance. Eighty-six congressmen decided to impeach Davide for alleged graft and corruption, betrayal of the public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution and "failure to maintain good behavior while in office." The closest thing to an evidence they have in their possession are complaints by some court employees that they had not received their allowances and that huge sums of money were diverted from the Judiciary Development Fund and used to construct and renovate the justices' vacation homes in Baguio, buy luxury cars, etc. The Commission on Audit found nothing wrong with such expenditures, but these congressmen insist on doing their own audit. Davide refuses to let them do that, citing the constitutional guarantee of fiscal autonomy enjoyed by the judiciary to ensure the independence of the courts.

The congressmen, most of them belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr., who has suffered a string of court reversals lately, would not hear of it. They have power over the purse, they said, and that includes the funds of the judiciary. And since the Chief Justice would not be a party to the violation of the Constitution, he had to be impeached even if it meant violating another constitutional provision prohibiting the filing of a second impeachment complaint against an official who had already faced a similar complaint in the same year. If anyone is guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution here, it surely doesn't look like Davide.

But if they cannot prove graft and corruption or culpable violation of the Constitution, what then is Davide's impeachable offense? The impeachment complaint also mentions "failure to maintain good behavior." Like what? Davide has not been known to have been caught spending the night in a plush hotel with a woman who was not his wife. He has not been heard to have coddled a fugitive from justice. And he has not been reported to have demanded 10 percent of the cost of any project, unlike many members of Congress. In fact, if they are really bent on rooting out graft and corruption, as some anti-Davide congressmen claim, they wouldn't have had to search far for a target. All they could have done was look around if not into themselves.

Davide's fault is that he wants to defend the courts and preserve their independence. But his biggest, unpardonable offense is to face down the members of the House who schemed to dilute it, if not dissolve, such independence.

Teodoro, Fuentebella and their 84 other allies should just stop talking about fighting graft and corruption. As Remulla and Jaraula have hinted, this is about power. This is an attempt by some congressmen to shackle the judiciary and make it do their bidding. More than this, it is a bid by one powerful individual, who has a reputation for gobbling up profitable companies, to protect his business empire and expand his dominion to include every branch of government. Davide stands in the way. He has to be destroyed.

Did NPC bite more than it can chew?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT the Nationalist People's Coalition congressmen did to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. shows very clearly the pitfalls of a parliamentary system of government which the House of Representatives wants. Using party discipline, the NPC was able to railroad the impeachment complaint through the House. If a political party, without even a majority in the House, acting on orders of just one man who is not even a member of the legislature, can do this in a presidential system where there is a system of checks and balances, what more in a parliamentary system where the majority party runs the whole government—the legislative, executive and even the judiciary? One man, the party leader, can hold the whole nation hostage. And if the present congressmen will be the future members of parliament (which they likely will be) then we can see what abuses they are capable of perpetrating in a system they control.

The nationwide outpouring of support for the Chief Justice also shows the lack of trust among the people in their representatives. Listening to them (Representatives Constancio Jaraulla and Gilbert Remulla were guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila), they have all the reasons to put Davide on trial. There is extreme extravagance and abuse in the use of the hundreds of millions of pesos of the Judicial Development Fund paid by the public, they said. Six million pesos for curtains of the Supreme Court session hall alone, P8 million for loose furniture (P120,000 per chair), three luxury vans for each justice (is this true?), luxury cottages in Baguio for the justices. All these while judiciary employees are not getting the allowances for which 80 percent of the JDF was intended.

The man orchestrating all these spending is the son of the Chief Justice himself, according to the congressmen.

They said they have documents and figures from the Commission on Audit to prove their charges. Jaraulla and some other congressmen said they did not want to sign the impeachment complaint, but when they saw the evidence, they saw it was their duty to sign.

These charges are probably exaggerations or outright falsehoods that can easily be explained. But the Chief Justice made a bad thing worse by refusing to cooperate and explain, the lawmakers claimed. He allegedly harped on the "fiscal autonomy" of the Supreme Court and, in a written memorandum to court employees, ordered them not to cooperate with the congressmen. The latter claimed that not only do they have "the power of the purse" but also "oversight functions" even on a co-equal branch of government. They said that members of the tribunal are acting like "untouchables" who are above the law. They are not, even if they are the ones who interpret the law, they said, and so we have a stalemate. When an irresistible force collides with an immovable object, you have a tremendous explosion. And that's what we're having now with the impeachment complaint.

But the danger is much worse. A constitutional crisis—such as when the Chief Justice refuses to subject himself to a trial by the Senate and Congress insists on it—may be seen by some military adventurers as an opportunity to take over on the pretext of saving the country. Thus, what we have been able to avert so many times in the past will finally come to pass.

For now, the NPC seems to have bitten more than it can chew. The whole country is in an uproar. Black clothes and black armbands to show support for Davide have become the fashion reminiscent of the Yellow Revolution after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. There are noise barrages and rallies everywhere. Trial judges of Makati suspended trials the other day to show support for their chief. There is a call to boycott all San Miguel products. (But you can still drink beer and gin because there is still Beer na Beer and Ginebra Kapitan.)

The heavyweights, like former President Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin, have weighed in for Davide and against Danding Cojuangco. The crisis is even putting strain on the family. Cory Aquino and Danding Cojuangco are first cousins and now they're on opposite sides; Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr., point man of the impeachment move in the House, is the nephew of both. If this were a military attack, the commander would order a tactical retreat. But The Boss who is orchestrating the whole thing through his favorite nephew, is not known to give up that easily. And so we're in for more fireworks.

Ang gulo, ano po? Really messy.

"You know," quietly said another panelist at Monday's Kapihan, Manny Portes, chair of the FPJPM, "all these will not happen if FPJ were the President." (FPJPM stands for Food, Peace, Justice and Prosperity Movement, but the F sometimes changes to Freedom and then to Filipinos, but everybody knows it really stands for Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement.)

"You know why?" continued Portes. "Because of the lawyers. We have too many degree holders from law schools. They can't agree on the meaning of the laws although they're talking of the same laws and went to the same law schools and had the same law professors. Were there two impeachment complaints or one? Is the second complaint constitutional or not? The lawyers can't agree.

"What we need is a non-lawyer to make things simpler and understandable by the *masa*. In fact, a non-degree holder. We have had too many officials with Ph.D.s in law, economics, business management, accounting, etc. and look where it got us. It's time to try a non-degree holder so that we can try a new tact, something practical, tried and tested, and not theories taken by academics from books."

Who's that? FPJ, of course.

Good and evil

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M really glad it was Joker Arroyo who spoke out against the iniquity being wreaked by the House of Representatives on Hilario Davide and named Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as its chief architect. Had it been Edgardo Angara or Nene Pimentel, Malacañang would have found it easy to dismiss the charge as politically motivated. But Joker it is the senator who, as head of the blue ribbon committee, has been stonewalling the Jose Pidal investigation, putting hurdle after hurdle in the path leading to his namesake, Mike Arroyo. Well, I always thought—or hoped—he would draw the line somewhere. He has. You have a conscience, you cannot sit by when an honest man is robbed of his only wealth, which is his name, by a bunch of crooks.

It took a lot of, well, attitude for GMA to attend that Mass at the Supreme Court last Monday. I was reminded of the months before Edsa II when she materialized from out of nowhere to be by the side of Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin when Erap was on the ropes. She did it again the other day, materializing by the side of Davide when the congressmen who initiated the second impeachment against him were taking a beating outside the Batasan. Or more importantly, after Cory and Sin spoke out against them.

The only difference was that before Edsa II, GMA merely hid when the battle was raging and appeared when it was over. This time, she hid behind Congress to oust the man who put her in power and materialized to damn the plot when it turned sour. The first was merely an act of cowardice, the second of duplicity.

It is a testament to Davide's decency that he did not embarrass the President by turning a cold shoulder toward her, and even allowed her to stand beside him throughout the Mass. What can one say? *Mabait talaga 'yung tao*. His is a class act.

There is no way GMA can wiggle out of Joker's charge. Common sense will tell you the NPC alone could not have impeached Davide. It needed the help of Lakas, which controls Congress. Davide himself, who has never been known to open his mouth without a thought animating it, suggested as much when he indicted Jose de Venecia for the deed. When he asked him to defend democracy and not destroy it. If De Venecia threw his weight behind the move in Congress, GMA could not have been far behind. De Venecia would not have thrust the ruling coalition into something so perilous without GMA's nod, or blessing.

GMA's hands-off policy at the start proves she at least tacitly approved of it, if not actively endorsed it. It reflects a "failure of leadership," as Raul Roco refers to it, refusing to head off a very cheap shot. If her argument is that she could have done nothing then because it would have violated the separation of powers, then why is she doing something **now**? Why is she loudly expressing her support for Davide **now**? It's okay to violate the separation of powers when Cory and Sin have spoken? Or more to the point, it's okay to violate the separation of powers when it has become popular?

In a sense, I'm glad the NPC, Lakas and Malacañang—the last two, despite their strenuous disavowals—have done this to Davide. They have turned the political situation again into a fight between Good and Evil. As any scriptwriter will tell you, the life of drama is contrast, and no contrast is starker than that between Good and Evil. Before they plotted against Davide, all they showed was the face of Evil. The viciousness to "salvage" Al-Ghozi as an offering to George Bush, the shamelessness to give to Danding Cojuangco the wealth he stole from the coconut farmers, the ruthlessness to abduct the key witness in a corruption case against the First Gentleman, to fire a police chief for protesting the manufacture of terrorism in the South, to rig the elections next year through the Comelec. Despite their enormity, singly and collectively, these were enough to stoke the public to outrage.

The last two Edsas needed the face of Good at the other end of Evil to create the explosion. During Edsa I, it was Cory, the Joan of Arc pitted against the tyrannical Dauphin, Marcos. What lit the fuse was the theft of the "snap elections," including the theft of the life of Evelio Javier—he was chased in broad daylight and gunned down—a barefaced oppression that drove the people to the streets. During Edsa II, it was Hilario Davide himself, the prosecutors and half the Senate-turned-impeachment court, ranged against the well-paid henchmen of Erap. What lit the fuse was the other half of the Senate-turned-court voting not to open the second envelope, a barefaced oppression accompanied by singing and dancing—the dancing was literal, courtesy of Tessie Oreta—by the apparent victors that drove the people to the streets.

I don't know that we'll see a third Edsa, though if you were at the Batasan last Monday, you could smell it in the air. It wasn't just that the usual suspects were there, chief of them, Cory, it was that the usual ingredients were there. The Good was represented again by Davide, hero of the Erap impeachment trial—his detractors clearly forgot how phenomenally popular that trial was, even trouncing the most popular soaps and animés in viewer ratings—ranged against Danding Cojuangco's lackeys, De Venecia's legions, Malacañang's not very unseen hand. What has lit the fuse is all of them conspiring to call Davide a crook, a barefaced oppression that is driving people back to the streets.

I don't know that we'll see another Edsa. But this I know: The people of this country do know when enough is enough. The people of this country do know what to do when faced with a choice between Good and Evil. The people of this country do know when to say, "*Tama na, sobra na, alisin na*."

Nation walks on knife's edge

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE NATION yesterday walked on the knife's edge of an intensifying constitutional crisis over the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., following the failure of efforts to strike a compromise formula to break the impasse between the Court and a bloc of congressmen associated with business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, who muscled the complaint in the House of Representatives.

The conflict developed into an epic clash between the judicial system and the legislature as both Davide and members of Congress dug in their heels over the critical issue over whether the Articles of Impeachment should be transmitted to the Senate for trial.

The search for a compromise appeared doomed as Davide hardened his position that he "is ready to fight this battle all the way to where it will go" and Cojuangco's henchmen in his Nationalist People's Coalition in the House were equally adamant in insisting that the issue of transmitting the complaint to the Senate was "non-negotiable."

With either side unbending, it became inevitable that the complaint will be sent to the Senate within the week. With the tinder dry, the transmittal is expected to ignite the flashpoint that is expected to explode into a full-blown constitutional crisis once it gets to the Senate. The delay in transmittal did not buy time for the search of a compromise formula as the impasse pushed the nation into sharp polarization.

The prospects of avoiding a constitutional collision became even more remote as a group of lawyers was poised to file with the Supreme Court a request for a temporary restraining order, on the grounds that the complaint was questionable as it manifested "grave abuse of discretion or lack or excess of jurisdiction."

This petition is like pouring oil on live coal and can provoke an immediate head-on clash between the Court and the legislature. The crisis has so generated enough heat that over the past couple of days, the impeachment issue has become an issue that has fueled the beginnings of mass mobilization by several groups already taking to the streets to demonstrate support for Davide and the Court and to condemn the congressional sponsors of the impeachment complaint. Protest actions from professional groups—including judges, lawyers and citizens' movements—have sprung up in what appears to be the early formation of another people power movement.

While the streets are again astir over the impeachment, this time the public outrage is directed toward showing support for the beleaguered Court and Chief Justice, who has been accused by the impeachment complaint, of alleged corruption and irregularities in the disbursement of the Judicial Development Fund. Unlike in People Power II, which installed then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency in 2001, people are going to the streets not to demand the ouster of a sitting government. This time they are mobilizing to defend an institution—the Supreme Court, symbolized by the Chief Justice, who is the focus of the complaint—and are in a lynch mob mood to vent their wrath on political groups responsible for pushing the complaint through the House

Two developments are clear. First, the impeachment complaint has become the catalyst of a new political mobilization centered on Davide and the Court. Secondly, regardless of whether or not, the Chief Justice deserves the charges brought against him, the perception has crystallized among the public that the complaint has constituted an assault on the independence of the judiciary and that it has set up the Chief Justice for political assassination or political martyrdom.

Like it or not, the Chief Justice has become the rallying point of mass mobilization over the issue of congressional abuse of its power of investigation carried out in the name of "in aid to legislation," the principle invoked by the sponsors of the impeachment action when they initiated an investigation in the House Committee on Justice into the disbursement of the Judicial Development Fund.

This inquiry has raised the salience of two competing constitutional principles—the power of the Congress to exercise oversight on the disbursement of public funds, and the independence of the judiciary from interference by the legislature on how it spends its budget, touching the issue of separation of powers.

Even before the complaint has reached the Senate, a battle for public opinion has begun. The Articles of Impeachment has already become widely circulated, signaling a public opinion offensive by the supporters of impeachment. The Chief Justice was no less quick in taking to the media to defend his actions, the Court's constitutional prerogatives and to answer the specific allegations of the complaint.

With public opinion becoming the arena of battle, the conflict has become a credibility contest, and already influential leaders of different sectors—including retired Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino and former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma—are vouching for the integrity of Davide. In this test, the battle for the minds of the people is about whose word is to be believed—that of Davide's or that of his accusers.

This preliminary encounter on the arena of public opinion has already deeply divided the nation that has not yet healed its wounds, suffered during two people power crises.

But before the merits of the case go to the process of trial, the crisis will be resolved on the key constitutional issue raised by Davide that the second impeachment complaint breached the Constitution which bars impeachment of an official two times within a period of one year. This issue is like a wall of fire which the tense nation has to hurdle without getting consumed by flames.

The non-case of the impeachment

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino

WHAT is it about Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. that so peeves Rep. F.W. Fuentebella and his co-complainants that they have set into motion the severest form of censure against a constitutional official?

One answer seems to suggest itself from the key facts. On May 8, 2003, the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives, at the instance of Fuentebella, "invited" the Chief Justice to a committee meeting purportedly "in aid of legislation" on the Judicial Development Fund.

In a system of government that maintains three coordinate, coequal branches, Congress just does not summon (even by way of "invitation") the Chief Justice of the land to answer its questions, just as it never summons the President. There may be no express constitutional provision, but there definitely are constitutional premises and there is a constitutional culture. Not even in parliamentary democracies are justices and judges held accountable to Parliament.

Quite correctly and well within his rights, Chief Justice Davide declined the invitation in a letter of May 9, citing constitutional issues, among others, that his appearance could raise.

Fuentebella was apparently eager to see the Chief Justice humbly and humbled before him and when the Chief Justice made it clear that he would safeguard the dignity and constitutional position of his office by declining the invitation—as he was duty-bound to do—Fuentebella was reported (PDI, 9/30/03) to have announced that he was filing impeachment charges against the Chief Justice. On the very same day, Sept. 30, Fuentebella wrote the Chief Justice "humbly requesting" for remittance and expenditure reports covering the Judicial Development Fund (JDF) that the Commission on Audit had already passed upon. The Chief Justice, like any good lawyer, knew that Fuentebella was on a fishing expedition—and that Hilario G. Davide Jr. was definitely not going to supply the fish!

The Chief Justice is, by constitutional precept, obliged to submit the Court and its offices to audit by the COA, and this he has always done. In fact, in a Memorandum of June 23, 2003, he directed the supervising auditor to finish the audit of the fund in question "from the time I assumed as Chief Justice" and "if still possible, from the time of the establishment of the fund." If anything was wrong, the COA—an independent constitutional commission—would have pointed it out. It did not. It has not!

It should be made clear that the Chief Justice is **not** and **has never been charged** with having converted the fund or part thereof to his private or personal use. He is being charged with having "misappropriated" part of the fund—i.e., used it allegedly for purposes other than those set forth in the law. Did he?

1. Charge 1: He did not pay judicial employees their 80 percent share of the JDF from 2000 to 2002.

It will suffice to quote Winnie Monsod who provides a brilliant riposte:

"They (Teodoro, et al.) computed this (supposed underpayment) by adding the beginning balance for each year to the collections for the year and multiplying the total by 80 percent... Any shortfall between that figure as calculated, and what was actually given out, is described as an underpayment—and constitutes an unlawful act on the part of the Chief Justice. The analysis presumes that any cash balance at the end of the year is, in effect, misspent. Good grief! Under this construction unless there is zero balance at the end of each year, the Chief Justice is presumed to have committed an unlawful act. Which implies that the Chief Justice has to immediately allocate (and disburse) to the employees 80 percent of every collection—from every court in the land, you understand. Ridiculous." ("The wisdom of the House," PDI, 10/ 25/03) When Monsod says "ridiculous" she means just that!

One other point: If the allegation were true, judicial employees throughout the country would have risen as one to support Fuentebella and company. They have not. Rather, the Philippine Judges Association, the Philippine Trial Judges League, and associations of court employees have expressed unqualified support for the Chief Justice! Whose agenda is all this?

2. Charge 2: He misappropriated the 20 percent portion of the JDF set apart by the law for "office and equipment and facilities" by authorizing construction and repairs at the Supreme Court, including the purchase of new vehicles.

Section 1 of PD 1949 provides that "at least eighty percent of the Fund shall be used for cost of living allowances, and not more than twenty percent of the said Fund shall be used for office equipment and facilities of the courts located where the legal fees are collected."

There are two ways to read this proviso. First: the courts of any given municipality or province are to receive 20 percent (and no more!) of what they collect by way of fees in their own localities; second: the courts (throughout the land) are to use 20 percent of the fund, generated from the fees collected in the various localities, for "office equipment and facilities." True, the first construal is the easier one, but its consequences are inequitable and unfair. A province with fewer courts will collect lower fees, and will have less to use for much-needed office equipment and facilities, while courts in already affluent cities and urban centers will have disparately more for the same needs. The Civil Code prescribes that "in case of doubt in the interpretation or application of laws," courts are to apply that interpretation that achieves justice and right. And so it is that the Supreme Court has allocated 20 percent of the JDF for "office equipment and facilities"—and "facilities," by common sense, includes anything that facilitates work, including vehicles—for all courts of the land, including, of course, the Supreme Court.

Significantly, Section 5 of PD 1949 leaves to the Supreme Court the power to "promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Decree." Inevitably, the Supreme Court must engage itself in a construal of the law—as it has so engaged itself, in accordance both with its constitutional authority as well as with that vested by statute.

Even assuming, for argument's sake, that the Chief Justice's construal of the law is erroneous—and who will pass on this?—would that be in the class of "treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, betrayal of public trust" that are the constitutional grounds for impeachment?

To hale the Chief Justice before a court of impeachment may be fun for those who delight in such perverse sport—and it may even provide divertissement for a nation wearied by its politicians, like ours—but we are all the losers when a nation loses its faith in that branch of government that by constitutional intendment is above politics, and that by democratic tradition should be immune from the importunings even of angry magnates!

Fr. Ranhilio Callangan Aquino, is head of the Academic Affairs Office of the Philippine Judicial Academy, Supreme Court of the Philippines.

Who's above the law?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GOING on a media blitzkrieg, on which broadcasters were only too willing to indulge them, the perpetrators behind the lightning impeachment strike against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide have been saying things like their only concern is to "respect the rule of law" and how even the Chief Justice "should not be above the law."

This is comical, for their very action reveals that they themselves have little regard for the law, and that they seem to believe themselves (or their patrons) to be beyond the reach not just of the law but of even the rules of common decency.

People more learned than me, lawyers included, have pointed out that the impeachment of Davide was clearly in violation of the constitutional ban on having more than one impeachment complaint against an impeachable official "initiated" in the span of one year. To my mind, "initiated" means to begin, to start. Some say "mere filing" of a complaint, such as that of the lawyer of former President Estrada against Davide and seven other justices, does not amount to "initiating" an impeachment complaint. But that complaint was not just filed, it was heard and considered by the Justice Committee, which found it insufficient in substance. It was certainly well on its way down the procedural avenue.

And what was the great hurry, anyway? This second impeachment complaint was "initiated" just a few days after the Justice Committee dismissed the first one. Were the plotters anxious to take advantage of the situation, with the country's leadership distracted by the preparations for the visit of US President George Bush?

Is Davide holding himself above the law by refusing to concede the legality of the second impeachment complaint? I think he is precisely upholding the rule of law, protecting the judiciary from being held hostage by politicians who could, if they wanted, file malicious charges against members of the Supreme Court as revenge for, or insurance against, adverse decisions.

* * *

GIVEN his role in Erap's impeachment trial, and the role the Supreme Court under his leadership played in legitimizing the government put in place after Edsa II, Davide now finds history being held against him as he tries to parry his own impeachment trial.

Muddle-headed commentators keep bringing up the unfinished Erap impeachment hearings, saying Davide conspired in short-cutting the process when he allowed the prosecutors to walk out from the proceedings.

What they fail to mention is that the "walkout" took place only after the senator-judges, by a margin of one, voted against opening the so-called "second envelope" bearing documents potentially damaging to the former President. And it was not the congressmen-prosecutors who walked out, but the private prosecutors, and even then only after the hearing was adjourned. After the vote on the second envelope and the "People Power" uprising that it spawned, the congressmen-prosecutors had merely said they would be consulting the House to get further instructions.

Davide has been criticized for showing up at the Edsa Shrine and administering Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's oath of office. The Supreme Court voted to uphold the legitimacy of the new government arguing that there was urgent need to re-establish stability in the government, for allowing the uncertainty to continue would only invite even more anarchy.

Besides, the Erap forces have no moral ascendancy to boast of, either. Their own display of "people power" culminated in that ill-conceived, violent and tragic march to Malacañang by a mob egged on by politicians, many of them the very same ones now sanctimoniously evoking the "rule of law."

* * *

IT struck me, watching footage of the protests against the impeachment move, and noting the cast of characters who responded in behalf of the "other side," that here we are, 30 years after martial law and 20 years after Ninoy's assassination, still divided into pro-Marcos and anti-Marcos forces, the army of light and the army of darkness.

From the first Edsa revolt to Edsa Dos, from the seven coup attempts against Cory Aquino to Oakwood, and to the flap over the Davide impeachment today, we can draw a rough boundary between the people who fought the dictatorship and those who conspired in it. Just by tracking the faces of the participants on either side of the protests, one can surmise where their loyalties lie.

Of course, there are a few stray characters here and there, Rene Saguisag among the loose pieces who seem to have floated away from their moorings. But the faces we first recognized in rallies and marches in the months and years after Ninoy's killing are still there, older and more weathered, perhaps, but still fighting the good fight.

Sure, the leaders of this grudge fight in the House are young, and may not even have been born yet when martial law was declared and were but children when Ninoy was killed. But they have brought the struggle across generations, proxying for their elders in this continuing war to impose clashing visions of a Philippine nation state.

* * *

SUBSEQUENT events have shown the people on both sides of the post-Marcos struggle to be equally flawed, with those claiming to be on the side of reason, freedom and democracy proving to be just as vulnerable to the corroding effects of corruption, power and influence.

But even they have yet to shake off the influence of the Marcos years, and their deepest instincts rise to the surface with every resurrection of the dictator's legacy.

We are still fighting that legacy today—cronyism, the politicization of the military, the weakening of the judiciary. This fight goes beyond Davide or the Supreme Court, for it is really about the future of our country.

Bones and jawbones

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW that the annual ordeal of visiting the dear departed in cemeteries is at hand, I regret not having kept a part of my mother's ashes. A mere pinch of the cremated remains that were scattered in her beloved Anihan Botanical Gardens in Lipa, Batangas would save me the trouble of jostling with the crowds on Nov. 1. Having endured the annual trips to Taguig and Pampanga on the Feast of All Saints' Day (actually All Souls' Day is Nov. 2), my mother bought a niche in the parish church close to our home. While we thought this act so morbid at the time, we now appreciate her foresight and maternal concern. Since the family visits her every Sunday after Mass, we don't feel obliged to join the rush this coming Monday.

Being lazy, I realize that a pinch of mother's ashes would have saved me even the Sunday trips to the mortuary chapel. Her ashes would have found good company in a little silver box where I keep reliquaries containing bits of bone from various saints including Ignatius of Loyola and Therese of Lisieux. Another box contains more secular relics: a lock of Apolinario Mabini's hair, a silver belt that once kept Juan Luna's dress pants in place, and a pair of tacky cufflinks worn by the historian Gregorio Zaide. If I had taken a different path and sold insurance instead of writing history, perhaps there would be less clutter in our home.

The most gruesome relic in my collection (next to a bottle of lizard liquor manufactured by the Vietnamese Department of Health, and a large piece of wilted skin from the leg of the expatriate painter Macario Vitalis sent by Ofelia Tequi) was a gong handle from the Cordilleras. Gong handles found in antique shops these days are usually made of wood but the one I owned was simply the lower part of a human jawbone. Two holes had been drilled on it and the gong hung on this using a string. Looking at this gong handle helped me imagine the days when head-hunting was a way of life—or should I say a way of death. American colonial authorities at the turn of the last century have lots to say on this and Dean Wocester's report regarding Bontoc in 1913 is particularly chilling:

"There have been several incomparatively unimportant disturbances of public order during the year. A boy from Bontoc used his head axe on a boy from Tucucan for no apparent reason, cutting him severely. The Tucucan people at once armed themselves and attempted to raid the town of Bontoc. The Bontoc people, in accordance with the orders of [Lt. Gov. Samuel Kane], neither armed themselves nor left their homes. The Tucucan war party was intercepted in the outskirts of Bontoc by the lieutenant governor and a constabulary officer and its members were disarmed and sent about their business. As soon as they had a chance to cool off they readily admitted that they indulged in hasty action.

"While I was inspecting Bontoc, a man of Malecon became insane, proceeded to Sadanga and killed an old woman of that place, without taking her head. He then returned to his own town and killed two men there. Meanwhile the Sadanga warriors seized their arms, followed him to Malecon, and encountering an innocent man with a bloody head ax, killed him and took what is called the jawbone, which in effect means that they cut off the flesh of his face with the lower jaw attached to it.

"As soon as news of this untoward occurrence reached Bontoc, an Igorot policeman was sent to demand the return of the jawbone, which was effected, and the affair was adjusted without any fighting between the two towns.

"A few years since, either one of these incidents would have resulted in wholesale killing."

The above text along with other ethnographic notes of the period, would have added some interest to the gong handle but then, there was just something so violent and disturbing about a jaw turned into a gong handle that I have since exchanged this terrifying antique for something more decorative like an Itneg blanket. This gong handle evoked the same feelings that come when I handle antique Kalinga head axes. These are so marvelously designed—sleek and actually weighted ergonomically to chop off a head with the proper wrist action. The back of the blade is even pointed, the better to pick up the severed head with. It is difficult to describe the mixed feelings of fascination and fear that come with these objects. Perhaps the closest would be visiting the reptile section of a zoo and watching a cobra up close knowing you are separated by thick fang-proof glass. These old weapons from the Northern and Southern parts of the country make my skin crawl and wonder what it would be like to be a forensic doctor.

In March 1930 the supposed remains of Gregorio del Pilar were exhumed, close to Tirad Pass in Ilocos Sur and brought to the eminent medico-legal expert of the University of the Philippines Department of Pathology, Dr. Sixto de los Angeles, for study and identification. We all know Del Pilar was killed in action in December 1899 while protecting Emilio Aguinaldo from the American soldiers in hot pursuit. What remained of Del Pilar were 73 bones and 33 teeth and one piece of bone that was too decayed to be of any use. Using these remains Dr. De los Angeles was able to identify the anonymous body as that of Gregorio del Pilar. So much for bones and jawbones.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.com.ph

Subverting the Constitution

A CABAL of congressmen acting in behalf of a crony has impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. These so-called representatives are not just occasionally rented but wholly owned by Danding Cojuangco, whom they acknowledge as their "Boss." They have subverted the constitutional process of impeachment in order to intimidate the Supreme Court that is finally resolving the decades-old cases involving the coco levy funds which have long been infamous as Cojuangco's main vehicle for crony capitalism.

We condemn this act of dirty politicians attacking the integrity of the Chief Justice to pressure the Court to act in behalf of the vested interests of their patron. This act not only casts doubt on the prestige of the Supreme Court but also destroys whatever remains of the reputation of the House of Representatives. So in one self-serving act, two key political institutions essential to the survival of our constitutional government are placed in harm's way. We therefore condemn this act in the strongest terms.

Three glaring facts inflame every decent and law-abiding Filipino.

1. Despite the Constitution's clear prohibition against initiating more than one impeachment complaint per year against an impeachable official, these congressmen impeached Chief Justice Davide within one year after dismissing one other earlier complaint against him.

2. Despite the claims of transparency and accountability that are being used by these congressmen as their basis for impeaching Davide, the factual basis of the complaint and the process of determining its sufficiency in form and substance were all attended by a serious lack of public airing and popular awareness. This impeachment occurred like a thief in the night.

3. Despite the claims of acting in pursuit of the public interest, the congressmen who voted to impeach Davide were mostly those who derive financial sustenance for their political careers from the largesse of Cojuangco. Anyone who realizes that Cojuangco's ability to hold on to the ownership of ill-gotten wealth depends on the Supreme Court resolution of the coco levy fund cases can readily connect the dots that paint a picture of naked exercise of political clout to secure the proceeds of past corruption.

Given these facts, the impeachment of Davide is clearly illegal, without the political support of the people and bereft of any moral justification. We condemn it vigorously and we blacken the name of all congressmen who foisted this abomination on our nation. We call on every Filipino who cares for the rule of law and the principle that public office is a public trust, to publicly express his rejection of this act of dirty politics. Let us raise our voices so that the nation can collectively express its disgust with this cynical use of constitutional processes.

—PAGBABAGO@PILIPINAS FOUNDATION INC., Gabriel III, Room 402, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Where do we go from here?

THE MOST honorable branch of government is under fire by the less honorable ones. They belong to the independent and co-equal branches in our system of government. In terms of governance among the independent and co-equal branches of government, the Chief Executive is the first among equals. In terms of being honorable, the Chief Justice exceeds them all; he is the Chief Guardian of the Law. In our democracy, he is the head of the office of last resort.

It is unbelievable that the dignity of the person of the Chief Magistrate of the land is assailed by the biggest and most wasteful spenders of the people's money for allegations of misspending official funds. This is a very serious and vindictive incursion of politics into the most important and nonpartisan bulwark of our democracy.

Yes, the magistrates may have their weaknesses. There may be hoodlums in robes, but generally those who wear the robe exude more dignity and honor than any of their counterparts in our system of government.

As the first among equals, the Chief Executive should take a firm hand in resolving the issue in the spirit of upholding the principle of check and balance among the independent and co-equal branches of government and checking vindictive intramurals that weaken the governance of the nation.

The national situation is already so fragile that another push toward the brink of anarchy can invite a constitutional intervention if only to restore national peace of mind and initiate the groundwork to reconstitute a system of governance for ratification of the people.

The forthcoming election will not mitigate the crisis we are in now. It will only worsen the fragility of the national situation especially since the Commission on Elections does not seem to be prepared yet to enforce a credible, honest, orderly and peaceful election.

—MAJ. GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT, AFP (ret.), fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

Unseemly for a Supreme Court justice

I HAVE just read the Supreme Court's decision on the Kuratong Baleleng case. I found the utterances of Justice Consuelo-Ynares (one of the dissenting opinions) disturbing. She sounds more like the defense lawyer of Sen. Panfilo Lacson et al.

Can't the tribunal give gag orders or guidelines to the justices on how to say something in public? It's one thing to dissent but another thing to publicly parrot the line of defense of Lacson.

—N.P. SERRANO, Rome, Italy, npserrano@hotmail.com

PHILIPPINE LETTERS INQUIRER

A gravesite better remembered

THIS is in reaction to the news article "Palawan massacre remembered," a story told by Glen McDole, an American soldier and survivor who suffered as a prisoner of war during World War II in the province of Palawan. (PDI, 10/5/03) The story of his escape was indeed a very painful one and it is sadder to learn that the Palawan Grave, the largest gravesite in the cemetery of St. Louis, Missouri was marked only with a large gray stone and nothing more.

In this regard, I would like all to know that the same is not true in the Philippines, specifically in Puerto Princesa City, where McDole's story actually happened. In his story, he described how Japanese soldiers burned 143 American prisoners of war inside a tunnel. I believe that the garrison where they were herded and the three air-raid trenches were they were imprisoned are located in Puerto Princesa City. This place is known now as the Plaza Cuartel, located on Taft Street, the area where the Philippine National Police used to have its headquarters many years ago.

The place was restored and transformed into a public park during the first term of Edward S. Hagedorn, the present mayor of Puerto Princesa. In order to restore the area, a piece of land was bought by the city government where the PNP headquarters was relocated. This allowed for the restoration of the Japanese garrison. At present, Plaza Cuartel is considered one of the historical landmarks of Puerto Princesa City that tourists can visit any time. It is a reminder to all of a difficult time in our history.

—ALMA ALYN ARIAS, Puerto Princesa City

Review and reform of mining laws ongoing

THIS refers to the letter titled, "What happened to order for review of mining laws?" written by Edgar Martinez, president of the Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries Inc. (MINA), (PDI, 10/8/03)

Martinez may be referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive in January 2003 regarding the policy shift from tolerance to promotion of mining operations. Immediately, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources led by Secretary Elisea G. Gozun, implemented the Revitalization of the Minerals Industry Program that includes the policy reforms that would encourage more investments and generate more employment in the minerals sector.

Recently, Gozun also issued the amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which further simplifies the procedures and reduced the requirements for mining applications.

More importantly, the DENR in partnership with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), have also embarked on the harmonization of environment and natural resources laws with the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra).

We would like to thank Martinez for acknowledging the role of the proposed National Minerals Policy (NMP) in the revitalization program. Gozun has made it known that she anticipates the signing of the NMP next month once we have incorporated the outputs of the recently concluded Regional Mining Workshops and the previous NMP consultations.

We would like to assure Martinez that no less than the DENR and the Department of Trade and Industry are implementing the directive of President Macapagal. In fact, the DTI has already finalized the Philippine Minerals Industry Road Map.

We, in the government can only provide the enabling policy environment and promote responsible business ventures. Revitalizing the minerals industry requires the trust and cooperation of the private sector, civil society groups and the communities.

For more updates, our website is mgb.gov.ph or subscribe to the bi-monthly mgb@your_service (central@mg.gov.ph).

—LEO L. JASARENO, OIC, assistant director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Warped values

WHEN President Bill Clinton came for the Asia Pacific Eeconnomic Cooperation meeting in 1997 the homes of over 100 poor families were torn down near Del Pan Bridge. Clinton was staying at the Manila Hotel and might see the squatter homes, it was feared!

The picture on Page 1 last Oct. 11 shows the houses of poor families again demolished, near the Batasan this time, lest George W. Bush see them.

What is wrong with our sense of values?

—ALICIA G. MURPHY, Urban Poor Associates, 25-A Mabuhay St., Brgy. Central, Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO CONGRESS ON THE SECOND IMPEACHMENT CASE AGAINST SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.

We, officers and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), are gravely concerned with the second impeachment case against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

The Philippine Constitution provides that "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year".

We, therefore, urge the members of both Houses of Congress to respect the provision of the Constitution.

We believe that Congress should attend to more pressing legislative priorities that will improve the economy and, consequently, the welfare of the Filipino people.

Signed
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)

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Pacificador: I did not kill Javier

PACIFICADOR

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

SAN JOSE, Antique—"I never participated in the planning or implementation of the killing of former (Antique) Gov. Evelio Javier."

Testifying for the first time in the 17-year-old murder case of Javier, former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador repeatedly denied that he masterminded the killing of his political opponent and the wounding of several others.

He said he knew he would be the "total loser" if Javier was killed.

He said his political career was destroyed and he was imprisoned because of Javier's death.

"Why should I eliminate (Javier) when I had already beaten him twice in the elections? He had already been eliminated politically through the ballots," Pacificador testified at the sala of Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12.

Javier lost to Pacificador in the Batasang Pambansa elections on May 1984 but the results were protested by Javier.

In his two-day testimony that ended yesterday, Pacificador refuted testimony given by prosecution witnesses, which he called "lies and concoction of malicious minds."

Pacificador testified before a jampacked courtroom, a rare occurrence in hearings of the case in recent years.

He was defended by lawyer Jaime Opinion, a fellow delegate in the 1971 Concon and former law firm partner.

Private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe belittled Pacificador's testimony.

"It's a mere denial that could not overturn the positive identification of several witnesses," he told the INQUIRER.

He said the testimony that point to Pacificador as the mastermind was strong.

Pacificador denied allegations that two of the vehicles used by the gunmen were among four vehicles he loaned from the National Irrigation Administration.

He also denied ever knowing or meeting Eduardo Iran alias Boy Muslim, the alleged leader of the gunmen who killed Javier and wounded several others on Feb. 11,.1986.

Iran, one of the country's most wanted criminal, has eluded arrest.

Javier was monitoring the canvassing of votes of the snap presidential elections at the provincial capitol when he was shot at the San Jose public plaza.

All Saints Day marked as day to hunt criminals

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—While people will be busy remembering their departed kin this weekend, police will hunt down and arrest criminals, Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said yesterday.

Caringal issued a memorandum directing all police units in the region to look out for and apprehend the most wanted men on their list, according to Senior Supt. Ernesto Cuizon, Calabarzon police public information chief.

The move aims to ensure that cemeteries and the public are safe on All Saints Day this weekend, Cuizon said.

All provinces and municipalities in the region have put up their respective plans to thwart any attacks from crime groups, he added.

"We know that wanted criminals would try to visit their departed relatives during this weekend's activities. That's why we will be on the lookout," Cuizon told the INQUIRER.

Although the police understand that the criminals are "paying respects to the memories of their relatives, there are no holidays in enforcing the law," he said.

More troops will be fielded in memorial parks and main thoroughfares in the region to help and secure motorists going home to their provinces.

He said the Traffic Management Group in Calabarzon had already linked up with non-government organizations that have also set up assistance centers for motorists.

Cuizon said they hope the increased traffic assistance is enough to avoid any incidence arising from traffic altercations. Road rages are common during holidays, he said.

Police have also reinforced security in bus, jeep and taxi terminals, which are the favorite targets of criminal elements during holidays, he said.

As usual, Cuizon warned people going to memorial grounds against bringing alcoholic drinks and deadly weapons.

He said they have set up checkpoints surrounding the cemeteries. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

25 Scout Rangers lead assault on cop station, beat up scion in Gen San

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Twenty five fully-armed soldiers from the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion assigned in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat stormed a police precinct here early Monday morning and beat up a scion of a prominent family in front of policemen.

The Scout Rangers, led by Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, also reportedly pointed their rifles against two policemen who were trying to call up the city police headquarters for reinforcement.

Earlier, the soldiers entered Mamagaya Resto Bar here where one of their companions figured in a brawl.

Based on the police investigation report, Sgt. Edwin Romero and several other Scout Rangers went inside the Mamagaya shortly before midnight on Sunday.

While Romero was entering the comfort room, a customer identified as Arnold Sotto reportedly boxed him.

Pedro Animas V, a son of the late magistrate Pedro Animas Sr., witnessed the incident and tried to pacify Romero.

Police operatives then arrived and invited Animas and his companions, Valentin Delmo and Edgar Sanchez, to the police precinct to give their statements.

They also told Romero to follow them at the police station.

Before proceeding to the police, Romero reportedly called up his commanding officer and asked for backup.

Later Guinolbay and more soldiers arrived at the Mamagaya where they ordered all customers to lie face down while looking for Sotto.

Unable to find the man they were looking for, the Scout Rangers then proceeded to the Bula police station. There, they saw Animas and his three companions.

Inside the police station, a verbal tussle occurred between Animas and Guinolbay's men, resulting to the mauling incident.

Chief Insp. Maximo Layugan, Bula police precinct chief, told reporters they felt insulted by the behavior of the Scout Rangers.

City mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said he had already talked with Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, commander officer of the Army's 601st Brigade here, and the latter pledged to conduct an impartial investigation on the incident.

The 2nd Scout Ranger battalion based in Palimbang town Sultan Kudarat is under the operational control of the 601st Army Brigade here. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Complaint vs bank

A LANDOWNER is asking the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to take appropriate actions against a bank for alleged land-grabbing and for allegedly gypping him of some P5 million in loan seven years ago.

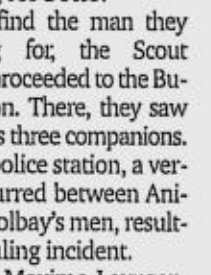
Thomas Chua, a Filipino-Chinese businessman, complained to BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura against the illegal banking practices of the bank based in Binondo, Manila.

He appealed to Buenaventura to cancel the bank's license and sanction the bank officers involved in the irregularities.

The bank acquired Chua's 493-square meter lot using a certificate of mortgage by a certain Manuel Fonacier.

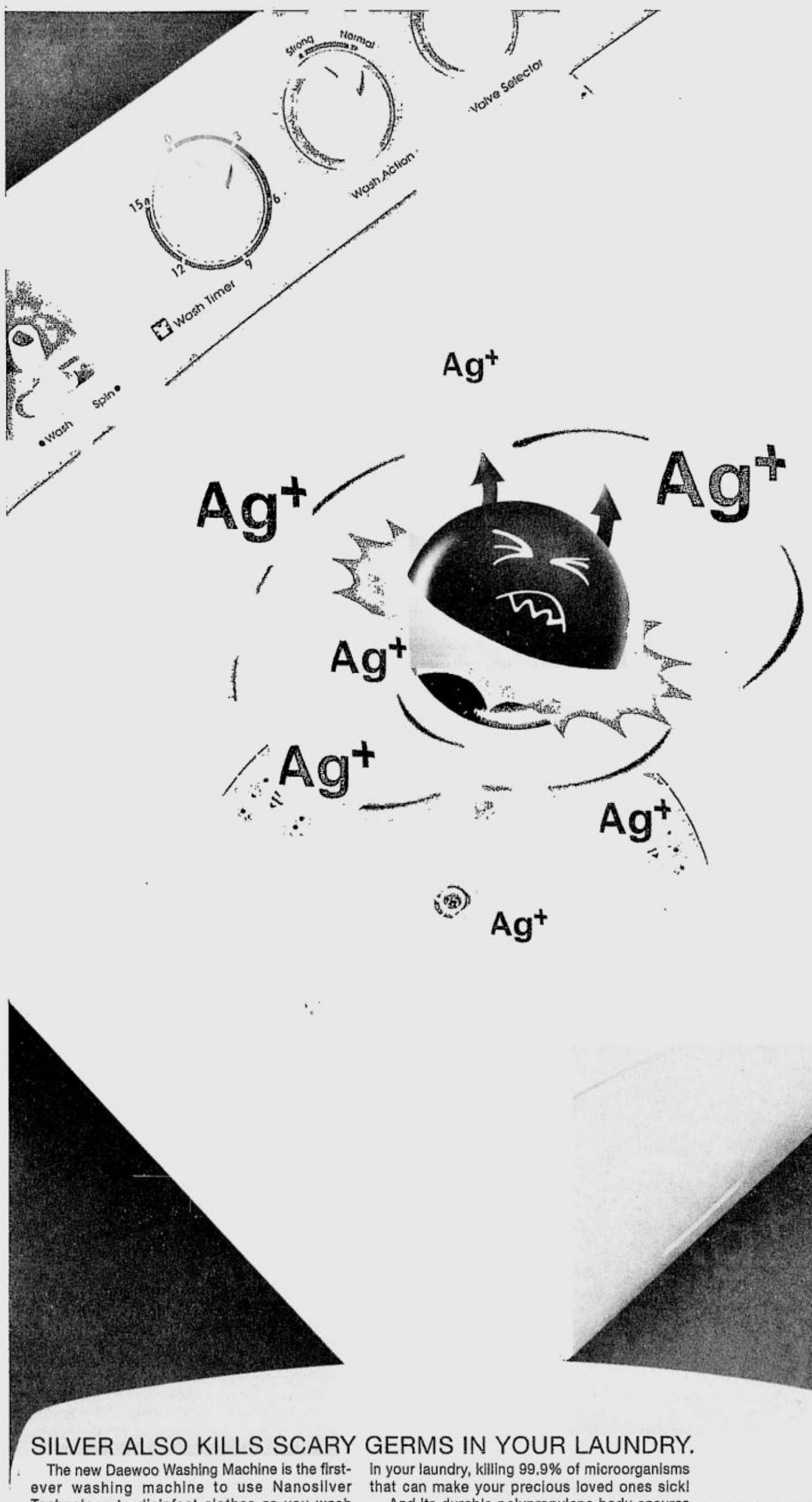
Chua said he was out of the country when the transaction took place and important papers were notarized by Fonacier whom he never met in person.

Countdown for justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 534 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.



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Baguio City spruces up to prepare for annual congress of advertisers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has ordered a major sprucing up of the summer capital to prepare for the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress before its Nov. 19 opening.

But work has been half-hearted at best due to one minor irritant: officials and businessmen realize that the media campaign for the congress has not been advertising Baguio City.

Unlike the PAC's Cebu congress commercials, which highlighted the island's whimsical sense of humor, the 18th congress' "What's the Big Idea" television campaign provides generic Filipino witticism "that does not even credit Baguio as the venue," a government official complained on Wednesday.

The city had asked the PAC to correct this oversight in a recent meeting in Manila, said City Hall public relations officer Ramon Dacawi.

Miguel Belmonte, chair of the PAC's publicity group, had apologized for the omission and had promised to attach city advertisements in future campaigns during a meeting with local tourism stakeholders, said Nicolas Tabora, chair of the Baguio Tourism Council.

"Belmonte told us Cebu got more publicity because it was too far from Manila. They felt that overselling Baguio may be hard for them because there is an even bigger chance for an overflow of delegates here," Tabora said.

"But we told them we wanted to see more Baguio publicity because it would be the significant payload for hosting a major event like the ad congress."

Although the congress' P18-million expenditure alone for the three-day event counts us a substantial dividend for Baguio, "it is the good image it would project about Baguio which will win us future conventions and conferences," Tabora added.

New businesses have timed their launching with the ad congress. Shoemart Baguio shopping mall has contracted a repeat of the largest tossed salad for its soft opening next month. New entrepreneurs like Margaret Reynoso Anton-Munden and her husband Jed, proprietors of the steakhouse Lolo Pepe's, have also opened their businesses in anticipation of the event.

The PAC has not posted streamers or posters along major Baguio thoroughfares to announce the event this late in the month, although all 3,171 rooms of the city's hotels and inns are already booked.

The advertising delay was the city government's fault.

Tabora said the PAC had been disappointed about an advertising contract between a publicist group and the city government, which controls all advertising and merchandising rights that find their way to Baguio.

Mayor Bernardo Vergara contracted Kuryente Graphics Advertising Inc. (KGAI), a Manila-based firm, to secure the publicity and company sponsorships for the 7th Baguio Flower Festival in February.

The KGAI contract granted this firm discretion on the placement of streamers, posters and billboards.

LOYALTY
Two lawyers take their pledge of loyalty in front of a Philippine flag in a court in Quezon province not to country or duty, but to Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide who vowed to wage war on attempts to investigate charges he misused judiciary funds. DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON

750 bankrupt co-ops forced to fold up in Isabela

ILAGAN, Isabela—At least 750 multi-purpose cooperatives in Isabela have folded up since last year due to mismanagement and bankruptcy, the provincial cooperative officer here said.

Carlito Tumaliuan, Isabela cooperative officer, said out of the 1,200 multi-purpose cooperatives organized in the province since last year, only 450 cooperatives are left operating. The number represents a 37.5-percent survival rate, he said.

Tumaliuan said very few of these cooperatives have "smooth financial operations."

He said most cooperatives in the province were formed mainly to avail of agricultural and industrial loans. "There are a lot of (cases of) failure (of cooperatives) but because they were formed for the wrong purpose of availing loans," he said.

To prevent the decrease in the number of operational cooperatives, Tumaliuan said his office has intensified its education campaign on cooperative organization and management.

"We discourage people from forming new cooperatives. We encourage them to join existing and successful cooperatives. But if they would like to form their own, we see to it that they are organized for the correct purpose of institutional development," he said.

Tumaliuan said government and private banks would seize the assets of cooperatives once these folded up to cover for the loan payment balance. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Fire guts bus

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A bus bound for Baguio City burst into flames on Monday night along the San Simon, Pampanga section of the North Luzon Expressway. Police said all 36 passengers of the Dangwa Tranco bus managed to get out before fire gutted the vehicle, according to a report from the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC). Driver Alejandrino Doctolero told investigators that the fire started at the engine and quickly spread to the rear portion of the bus, the PNCC security department said in the report. The passengers' belongings and cargo were destroyed in the fire. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cop gunned down

ANGELES CITY—A policeman was gunned down in his house here on Sunday night. SPO3 Edgar Arimbuyutan, 47, and assigned to the police's Civilian Security Group, died of bullet wounds in the head and body. Police said the two suspects used Arimbuyutan's .45 cal. pistol and Armalite rifle in attacking him inside the policeman's garage. The suspects took the firearms and fled aboard the policeman's motorcycle. Last month, Arimbuyutan was accused of beating up his wife. The Department of Social Welfare and Development had reportedly taken custody of the policeman's wife. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Soldier faces charges

ILAGAN, Isabela—An Army sergeant is facing murder charges in connection with the slaying of a village chief in Gamu town. Sgt. Antonio Rosqueta Jr., a member of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion in Alcala, Cagayan, was accused of planning the killing of Gerardo Cantor, 39, chair of District 3 in Gamu, on Sept. 9. Police said Rosqueta and Cantor were apparently fighting over a woman and the quarrel could have led to the murder. Cantor was driving his pickup truck when several armed men flagged him down in the boundary of Barangays Pintor and Mabini in Gamu. When Cantor stopped, the armed men shot and killed him. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Councilor's house attacked

GAMU, Isabela—Armed men fired shots at the house of a councilor in Barangay Mabini here on Sunday night. Chief Insp. Abraham Balderas, Isabela police information officer, said Councilor Emmanuel Lorenzo, who was in his house during the attack, and his family escaped unhurt. Police were looking into reports that the attack was prompted by a political feud. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Drug pushers held

OLONGAPO CITY—Police arrested five suspected drug pushers and users during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Pag-asa here last week. Arrested were Rey Salvador, 33; Carlito Villaflor, 27; Constantino Nito, 40; Agapito Manguhig, 37; and Dennis Nito, 19. A policeman posing as buyer bought a sachet of shabu worth P400 from one of the suspects. The other suspects were caught while using shabu in a house in Barangay Pag-asa, police said. Police recovered from them 17 sticks of marijuana and other illegal drug paraphernalia. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Nabbed for robbery

OLONGAPO CITY—Police here arrested a traffic enforcer for robbery and extortion in an entrapment operation last week. Reports said the suspect, identified as Leo Cea, was caught while asking P120 from Bart Ecenalan in exchange for a city planning office identification card that Cea had earlier confiscated from Ecenalan. Police also recovered a knife from Cea. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'GHOST' PROJECTS

NBI starts probe of Vizcaya mayor

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The National Bureau of Investigation is investigating the mayor of an upland town here for his supposed involvement in more than P12 million worth of projects riddled with corruption.

Alfonso Castañeda Mayor Alfredo Castillo Jr. was accused of malversation of funds for the construction of a road and the purchase of materials for a water system project, lawyer Florencio Binalay, chief of the NBI district office here, said on Tuesday.

A complaint by Nicanor Gutierrez, member of Bantay Korapsyon, a non-government graft watchdog, showed that Castillo allegedly cornered a P10-million road project in January this year, using one of his alleged dummy companies, Kaico 25 Realty and Development Corp.

Gutierrez showed a Commission on Audit (COA) inspection report, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, which found that Kaico 25 was paid in full by the municipal government despite completing only 3.8-percent of the 3-km road project.

The other project involved the alleged non-delivery of about P2.2 million worth of water pipes, which, the COA discovered, was also paid in full even without the actual delivery of the items.

Castillo, however, downplayed the charges. He dared his accusers to file the cases and present evidence.

"They can file charges in whichever venue they choose—the Ombudsman, the Sandiganbayan or elsewhere—and I will answer them," Castillo told the INQUIRER by telephone.

He described the charges as "politically motivated." He said Gutierrez was a perennial loser in local politics.

"You know, it's election season and now is the best time for my (political) enemies to launch such attacks," he said.

According to Gutierrez, the P10-million fund, which the municipal government received from the Countrywide Development Fund of Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, was intended to open a new road in Barangays Lublub and Abuyo.

However, the COA report noted that what was presented as a completed project, which was subsequently subjected to COA inspection, was an existing road.

The COA inspection team also noted the absence of basic documents such as project plans and specifications, detailed work and accomplishment reports.

Due to delays in the completion of the project, the COA found Kaico 25 liable to pay P1.5 million in damages.

In August this year, Castillo ordered the payment of P2.2 million for the purchase of 582 pieces of water pipes. A delivery receipt and a certificate of acceptance were issued but the items were not delivered, the complaint said.

In Bulacan, Gov. Josefina de la Cruz on Monday said the provincial government's loans were "legitimate and honest transactions" that would benefit Bulacan. *With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Fire guts heritage building in San Fernando

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After losing its historic building to looters early this year, this capital city of Pampanga lost another rare structure to a fire on Sunday amid a strong heritage conservation campaign fully supported by the national government.

The blaze that gutted the San Fernando Elementary School's Jose Abad Santos Hall also displaced more than 300 Grade 1 pupils and burned hundreds of books, school officials said. It was the third fire that hit the city in two weeks.

The hall, largely made of wood, was one of the four structures built in San Fernando during the American period through Act 1801 passed by the Philippine Commission in 1907 through the late Nueva Ecija Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon.

The common structural design of the schools that were built through the law's P1-million budget led to a now rare genre called "Gabaldon architecture," city tourism officer Ivan Henares said.

Considered historic for their functions in public education, the four buildings have been scheduled for restoration either by the Foundation for Lingap Capampangan Inc. or by the city government.

The first to be ruined by pillage was the old Pampanga High School (PHS) building, the first public secondary school established by Thomasite teachers in the province.

The PHS produced the likes of the late President Diosdado Macapagal and hundreds of government leaders. The school eventually became the first campus of the University of the Philippines-Pampanga extension.

Despite a resolution from the provincial board, the National Bureau of Investigation had not undertaken an investigation of who could be behind the fires.

The PHS is known to have valuable hardwood.

In the case of the Jose Abad Santos Hall, neglect seemed to have been the cause of the fire, fire investigators said.

A security guard cooked his meal in one of the rooms and left the gas stove on. Damage was estimated at P1.5 million.

Investigators did not say if the school principal, Dr. Elena Herrera, was also made accountable for allowing the guard to cook meals in the building.

On Saturday, fire also damaged the industrial arts room there.

Herrera's concerns were focused on where to resume classes and where to get funds for a new building. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Voter list-up resumes after poll exec's slay

ANGELES CITY—Dozens of volunteers on Monday braved dangers to their lives as they resumed the registration of voters on the heels of the still unsolved slaying of this city's deputy election officer.

Three days after the killing of city deputy election officer Ponciano Palo, the volunteers trooped to the Magsaysay Hall in Barangay Balibago to help hundreds of new voters beating the Oct. 31 deadline for the registration.

"The voters would suffer. They would not be able to exercise their right to vote, to select their leaders when they fail to sign up," volunteer Jerby Garcia said.

Two data capturing machines were installed at the hall. Also on Monday, Commission on Elections helpers put up two other machines at the Nepo Mall.

The Comelec changed venues after the Angeles Electric Corp. cut off the electric services at City Hall and at the city library over arrears worth P6.3 million.

The alternative venues became a contentious issue for the camps of Representative Francis Nepomuceno and Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, according to lawyer Cora Baleros, city Comelec chief.

She said it was this issue that the local Comelec was trying to resolve before Palo was gunned down in his house while having dinner with his colleagues on Friday night.

Police, on the request of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, have secured Baleros and three other supervisors. Baleros said they have been directing and monitoring the registration from their safe house. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Town execs take pride in Biñan success

TOWN officials expressed pride in the municipality of Biñan in Laguna saying the town was a good example of how cooperation results in good governance, economic development and a satisfied community.

In a press statement, Mayor Hermis Perez and Vice Mayor Ruben Yatco said their town rose in the last five years from being one of Laguna's most backward municipalities to being now at the forefront of economic progress in the province.

Perez said the town suffered deficits five years ago but is now enjoying the benefits of economic success.

"This was a challenge to us and it was a challenge that we all wanted to win for our town and its future," said Perez.

He said under his term and with the help of Yatco and the municipal council, various infrastructure projects were built like public markets.

Perez said it was also under his term that social welfare projects were launched like education programs and livelihood financing.

Municipal employees were quoted as saying they saw teamwork between their mayor and his vice mayor. They praised the absence of too much politics in the town's governance.

Biñan, according to the two town officials, has risen to become a leading investment destination in Southern Tagalog.

It has also become the commercial center of a cluster of big towns like San Pedro and Sta. Rosa in Laguna and Carmona in Cavite province.

Perez said Biñan has become the Philippines' version of the "city that doesn't sleep" since its public market has become the distribution center of fresh products coming from provinces south of Manila to public markets and supermarkets in the metropolis.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
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In Sagada, the dead are in touch with the living

By Maurice Malanes
Sagada, Mt. Province

COUPLE George and Teresa Baybay of Sagada, Mt. Province, were worried when their daughter, Nilda, had high fever and eventually got so sick she became thin in 1958. When she was bedridden, Nilda came into a trance and asked why the traditional death attire for her late grandmother, Calingan Bawayan, was not buried with her.

The traditional attire for the late grandmother was not given because one of her sons was a priest and didn't believe in the practice. But Nilda's father, George, believed in the burial rites that his ancestors practiced.

So on the night of Nov. 1, 1958, George lighted a torch and went to the cemetery where the remains of Bawayan were buried. He dug up the old woman's grave and buried the traditional burial clothes she was supposed to have asked for through Nilda.

Then George prayed that in exchange for what the old woman had wished for, Nilda must get well. Nilda, in no time, got well and sprang back to good health.

The story of the Baybay couple, now in their 70s, was one of the cases Dina Piluden-Omengan, a teacher, cited in a recent study about the death and burial rituals of Sagada, her hometown.

Although dominantly influenced by American Anglican missionaries, Sagada folk, until now, still observe some of the burial customs and traditions of their ancestors.

And the remains of some people who die are still entombed in caves, if not fastened at the foot of boulders, now described as "hanging coffins."

But Sagada also maintains a public cemetery, which the Anglican missionaries introduced. On the night of Nov. 1, each of the graves at the cemetery, where the remains of the late American missionary-scholar William Henry Scott were also buried, comes alive, not with candles, but with circles of *saleng* (pine resin wood) bonfires as local folk pay homage to their dead.

Piluden-Omengan's study described in detail the tradition-prescribed attires for people of all ages and classes who die in Sagada. She also documented the experiences of people, like the Baybay couple, whose families met some various levels of misfortunes, which were believed to be caused by their failure to fulfill some burial tradition.

A man who dies at old age is normally made to wear an Igorot-woven g-string, a vest and a turban or headband. A dead old woman, on the other hand, is made to wear an Igorot-woven wraparound skirt, an upper garment and a headband.

Distinguishing the social classes of the dead are prescribed designs and colors for the rich, the middle-class and the poor.

The spirits of dead ancestors, according to a Sagada belief, can easily identify and welcome into their embrace a relative who had just died through the attire his or her corpse is made to wear.

There are also prescribed sacrificial animals—mostly chickens and pigs—which, Piluden-Omengan noted, were all meant to help the souls of the dead as they journey into the Great Beyond.

When hometown ghosts follow you

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

I HAD dinner with Filipino expatriates in Bangkok recently and the subject of conversation eventually led to ghosts. One of them said ghosts are familiar presence in his hometown in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and that he doesn't find it unnatural to be talking to them in their ancestral house.

In fact, he said, the ghosts of his ancestors protect their house from intruders, as there was one time when all the houses of their neighbors were robbed except theirs.

Now that he is in Bangkok, the spirits still follow him and assuage him of his homesickness. A non-Asian who might have been eavesdropping on us might have found our conversation weird and he would be chewing on such statements like "Did the spirits fly economy or business?"

Among Ilocanos, according to F. Landa Jocano in his book "The Ilocanos," a spiritual being is more powerful than humans and has no need to check in at airports.

Among these spirits are ghosts like the *al-alia*, which Jocano defines as "spirit doubles of men."

"When a person dies, his al-alia comes to his bedside. Its presence is evidenced by the groan of a dying man, the crack of bottles or glasses, the rattling of beds, the juggling and clanging of heavy chairs or the banging of doors," says Jocano.

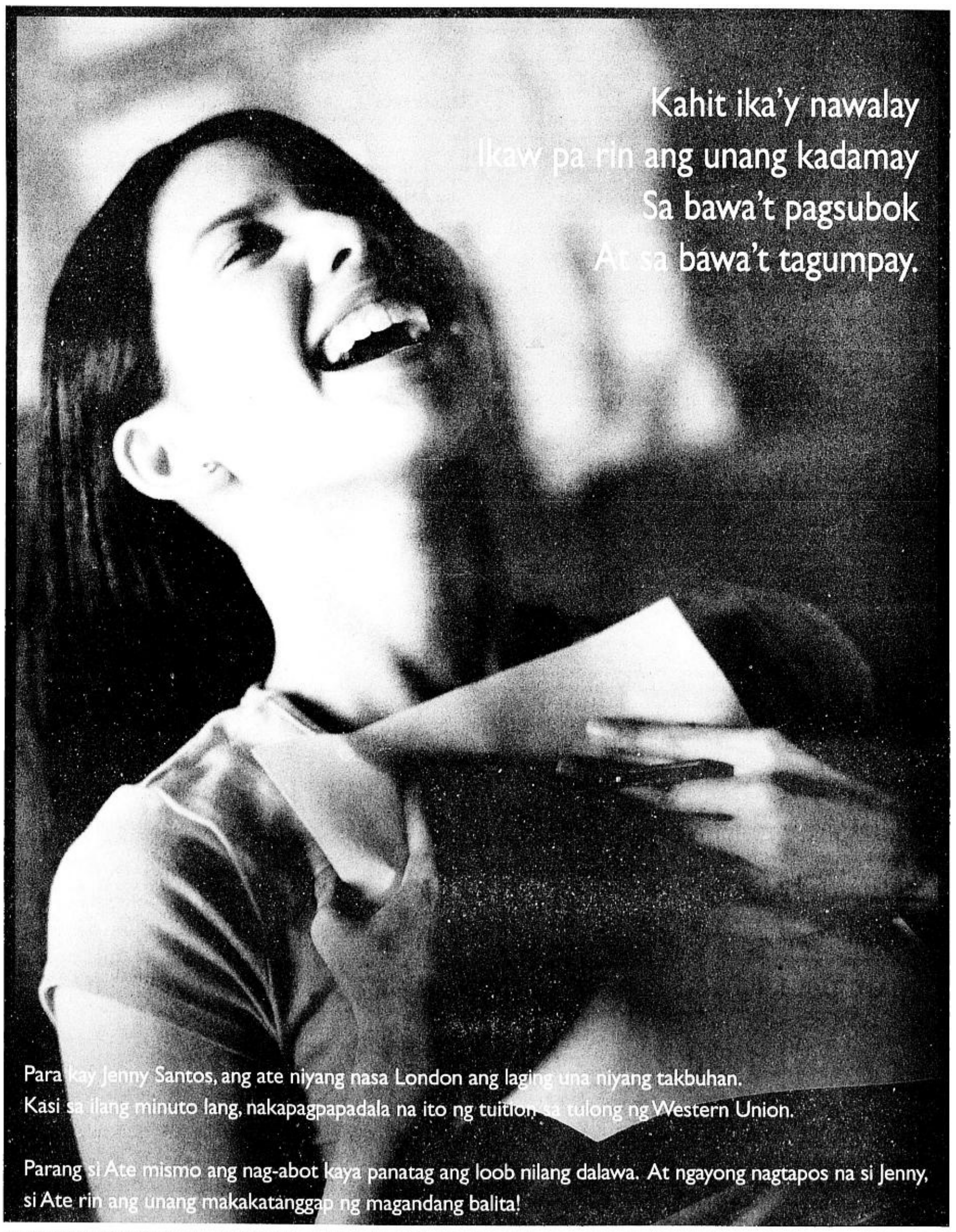
The al-alia is said to stay within the vicinity and appears to relatives in dreams and other signs. Some living persons directly communicate with the al-alia.

Disloyalty and lack of devotion anger the al-alia, Jocano says. And an angry ghost can cause misfortune.

Jocano says Ilocanos also consider as supernatural beings the souls of living persons, which they call *karkarma*.

The karkarma leaves through the nostrils of a dying person and visits relatives who may not know about the death. A karkarma is invisible unless it wants to be seen.

Otherwise, it leaves its trail through the scent of a favorite perfume or a burning candle.



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'Constitutional crisis'

From page A1

ically worded" because it addressed both Houses of Congress.

On the other hand, a TRO was like an injunction, said Arroyo. "It is very much stronger, very mandatory," which "commands the parties to cease and desist from doing anything."

"The Supreme Court was very careful. In fact, (the word TRO) is not in the order," said Arroyo who cited the SC's use of the phrase, "calls on the parties," rather than "cease and desist."

Unanimous resolution

In a five-page resolution, the full court unanimously stopped the House from immediately transmitting the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, and the Senate from accepting the transmittal.

"The court calls on the petitioners and the respondents to maintain the status quo, enjoining the parties and all others acting for and in their behalf, to refrain from committing acts that would render the petitions moot," the resolution, signed by Supreme Court Clerk of Court Luzviminda D. Puno, read.

The SC also ordered members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, along with the Solicitor General, "to comment on the petitions with a non-extendible period of five days from notice hereof and in any event, not later than 3 Nov. 2003, Monday at 4:30 in the afternoon."

Oral arguments

They were also ordered to appear before the high court for oral arguments on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m.

Davide also informed the House of the tribunal's "status quo order," in a letter to Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur).

Davide wrote Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations, because he was one of the congressmen involved in the negotiations De Venecia initiated with the SC.

Davide clarified that he was "taking no part" in the tribunal's deliberations on "six petitions for prohibition, etc., relating to or in connection with the complaint for impeachment filed against the Chief Justice."

Davide also said that Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo was "on leave due to sickness."

"Furthermore, the Court En Banc has finally issued a Status Quo Order," Davide said.

Military adventurism

De Venecia acknowledged fears that the deadlock between Congress and the Supreme Court may cause a new round of military adventurism. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"These fears are valid. That's why we took immediate action to respect the decision of the Supreme Court," De Venecia said.

He meant that Congress would recognize the decision of the high court. "We will make the strongest possible legal response," he said. "We shall respect the decision of the Supreme Court and take positive and constructive actions in the next 10 days," De Venecia said.

But pro-impeachment congressmen were less receptive.

Double-cross

Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio (NPC, South Cotabato) said that for days, pro-impeachment congressmen were made to believe that the justices were engaged in an honest-to-goodness search of a win-win solution.

"Never did we expect that we will be at the receiving end of a supreme double-cross," she said.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula (LDP, Cagayan de Oro City) put it bluntly: "The House has been stabbed in the back."

One of those who petitioned the Supreme Court to issue a TRO was Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, who as presiding officer suddenly adjourned the House until Nov. 10.

"It was only until today when the (SC) order came out that we realized that Gonzalez was also a petitioner," Aggabao said. "There is talk now (about) what we will have to do regarding his action at the session floor."

Petitioners

The high court issued the "status quo" order based on six petitions filed by several parties led by lawyers Francisco Chavez and Ernesto Francisco, and Representatives Gonzalez and Salacnib Baterina seeking to stop Congress from impeaching Davide.

Named respondents in the petitions were the House represented by Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Senate represented by Senate President Franklin Drilon, principal complainants Fuentebella and Rep. Gilberto Teodoro and the other solons who signed the complaint.

All six cases had been consolidated by the SC.

Took no part

Davide, along with three other associate justices of the high court, "took no part" in the en banc deliberations presided yesterday by Associate Justice Reynato Puno.

According to the resolution, Senior Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo was on sick leave, while Associate Justices Ynarez-Santiago and Dante Tinga were on leave.

"Before acting on the above-entitled petitions, Justices Puno and Vitug offered to recluse themselves, but the court rejected the offer. Justice (Artemio) Panganiban inhibited himself, but the court directed him to participate," said the resolution.

The SC clarified, however, that it was not not yet giving "due course" to the petitions—which seek the issuance of a TRO or writ of preliminary injunction against the impeachment complaint.

The order will just preserve the "status quo" pending resolution of the merits of the petitions.

Friends of court

The court appointed the following as *amici curiae* (friends of the court): former Senate President Jovito Salonga; retired Justices Hugo Gutierrez Jr. and Florenz Regalado; Dean Regalado Pangalangan of the University of the Philippines College of Law; former Justice Minister and Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza; and former Constitutional Commissioners Joaquin Bernas and Regalado Maambong.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, a former SC administrator, was also required to comment on the petition.

"No one is supposed to exacerbate the situation that could render the petitions moot. How things stand today would have to be maintained," said SC spokesperson Ismael Khan. ***With reports from AFP, Gerald G. Lacuarta, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

House adjournment delays impeachment

From page A1

ment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. sputtering in disbelief.

"De Venecia's Pangasinan express worked," one congressman exclaimed.

2-week postponement

The adjournment effectively postponed the transmittal of the Articles by two weeks.

In a move that recalled the "rump session" controversy last year, the Senate last night also decided to adjourn its session. But Senate President Franklin Drilon took pains to say this was not in sympathy with the House action. The Senate has approved the measures it had "committed to pass," Drilon told reporters. "We have done our work."

Asked whether the Articles could still be transmitted, Drilon replied: "Since the House has already adjourned, the Articles of Impeachment can no longer be officially transmitted to us until we come back on Nov. 10."

Rep. Benigno Aquino III (LP, Tarlac) defended the decision to adjourn the House's session, saying this will "provide time for heads to cool."

"If there was a quorum and a debate started, we might have had something more serious," Aquino said.

Suspended session

The adjournment was swift. It started with Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales (Lakas, Mandaluyong) opening and then suspending the session.

Gonzalez, the presiding officer, then opened the session again and Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, Agusan del Sur) moved to transmit the Articles.

At the same time, Reps. Raul del Mar (Promdi, Cebu City) and Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes), known as supporters of Davide, took to the floor.

Plaza manifested that the second impeachment complaint had 89 signatures and these were enough to transmit the Articles. But Del Mar immediately moved to adjourn the session, with Abad waiting in the wings to back him up.

Gonzalez immediately called for a roll call amid objections by Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa, Maguindanao).

With the names being called at a fast clip, the roll call was over quickly; only 62 names were counted present.

Del Mar did not say until when he wanted the session to resume. To the surprise of congressmen, Gonzalez declared that the session will resume on Nov. 10, and then banged the gavel.

The House has an approved calendar of business until Oct. 31.

Furious, immediate

The reaction from the pro-impeachment congressmen was furious and immediate.

Rep. Mark Cojuangco (NPC, Pangasinan) bewailed certain "forces" which delayed the transmittal. He said congressmen were still filling the session hall when the session was adjourned.

"It was clearly a fastbreak," said Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (NPC, Negros Occidental). He noted that congressmen are normally given a "reasonable time" to report to the floor. What happened yesterday was highly irregular, he said. "This is a bigger thing that what it seems to be," he added.

'Biggest farce'

Both Cojuangcos are sons of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., the founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, the party which spearheaded the impeachment drive.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) said the adjournment of the session was a "farce and the biggest farce that has happened in the House."

Conscience bloc

In a rare display of unity, the so-called conscience bloc composed of 23 congressmen from the Liberal Party, Aksyon Demokratiko and party-list groups critical of De Venecia allied with the Speaker yesterday to convince their colleagues not to attend the session or withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint.

One of them, Rep. Etta Rosales of Akbayan, said her group made sure that the complaint would not be sent to the Senate, saying it was anchored on unconstitutional ground.

"It's not valid and it's illegal. That is why we should not submit it to the Senate," Rosales said.

De Venecia and top leaders of Lakas in the House had been conducting day-long caucuses since Monday in a bid to convince 17 of their partymates to withdraw from the case.

As of 4 p.m., the number of signatories to the complaint was reduced to 86. Rep. Reylina Nicolas (Lakas, Bulacan) was the latest signatory to withdraw.

5 more to withdraw

Rosales was optimistic that five more congressmen from party-list groups would withdraw this week. Rosales said she and her group have been talking to party-list Reps. Rene Velarde of BUHAY, Joel Villanueva and Kim Bernardo-Lokin of CIBAC, Roseller Barinaga of Zamboanga del Norte (NPC/LAMP), and Leovigildo Banaag of Agusan del Norte (LAKAS-NPC) to withdraw.

JDV determined

According to sources privy to the Lakas caucuses, De Venecia was determined to bring down the number of signatories to less than 75 to defeat the impeachment.

The same sources said that President Macapagal-Arroyo told De Venecia to make sure that the impeachment would not reach the Senate.

After the sudden adjournment, Remulla warned that the House leadership "may have precipitated the start of a constitutional crisis that has been feared with the impeachment of Davide." ***With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac; AFP***

Peso slightly recovers; businessmen worried

From page A1

all-time closing low of P55.50 on Monday, making it harder for the government to pay its ever-mounting debt and ramping up the country's costly oil import bill.

In early trading at the Philippine Dealing System on Tuesday, the peso fell to 55.59 to the dollar but traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dumped $30 million in the market in response to rising demand for dollars. Turnover reached $213 million compared to $204 million on Monday.

Under pressure

"Clearly, the peso is under pressure," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said. "We are going into an election year and we would see more of these (political) noises."

Buenaventura, however, said the situation did not call for the central bank's intervention as the pressure on the peso was subsiding at the moment.

President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged that Davide's impeachment was affecting the economy and called for a speedy resolution of the looming political crisis.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said the negative impact of Davide's impeachment on the country's economy was among the factors that had prompted the President to intervene.

Paralyzing

"Right now, the crisis has not yet escalated but we already see that the perception of the business community is negative," Bunye said in a radio interview.

Analysts said investors expected a fair degree of volatility from the Philippines, but paralyzing political infighting before next May's election threatened to push the country off the radar of acceptable risk.

According to them, there are doubts about the extent of export-led growth, questions over whether central bank reserves are as high as the officially stated $16 billion, the 73-percent annual slide in foreign investment in the second quarter, rampant graft and threats from Muslim militants.

Philippine bonds

What keeps many investors from shunning the Philippines entirely is the fact that it is the largest sovereign issuer in Asia outside Japan and pays a hefty yield premium, according to analysts.

Rotten but ...

"Everybody knows it's rotten, but nobody wants to be the first one to sell," said a regional analyst at a European bank in Singapore, who asked not to be identified.

"Once the thing goes under — for me it's not a question of if, it's a question of when — everybody will head for the exits. There will be nobody else to take the other end of the market."

Tax collection has improved and the budget deficit has been held in check so far this year.

Even so, the government must shell out 29 percent of its budget —rising to a proposed 32 percent next year—to service debt, much of which is denominated in foreign currencies.

According to Basis Point, the Philippine government has $7.8 billion in overseas obligations maturing through 2008 and $12 billion after that.

"Definitely investor sentiment has deteriorated, one toward the Philippines and probably generally toward emerging markets in the last week or two," said James Blair, director of fixed income investment at Aberdeen Asset Management in Singapore.

More cloudy

"On the political side, we always expect it to be a bit of a circus. But it's actually looking a little more cloudy than we probably thought."

Uncertainty after a foiled coup in July was just easing when President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her candidacy against potential rivals, including tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, film star Fernando Poe Jr. and controversial Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Analysts said investors were anticipating that little official business would get done as candidates jostled for votes over the next seven months.

3-way war

But now a three-way war is looming between Malacañang, Congress and the judiciary after a rapid but well-backed campaign by opposition lawmakers to oust Davide as head of the Supreme Court. ***With report from Reuters***

Cory leads rally ...

From page A1

Chief Justice "has become divisive to the country."

No shouting

"We will deal with the issue through prayers," she told the INQUIRER. "The rallies will be non-confrontational. There will be no placards or any shouting."

Siytangco said only Aquino and her family would be in the rallies but "supporters of democracy," including the influential civil society groups, were welcome to participate.

Aquino's prayer marathon began the other day when she and about 1,500 members of civil society groups assembled in front of the House of Representatives in Quezon City to throw their support behind Davide. They urged members of the House to pray for guidance and not to decide on the case through the sheer force of numbers.

The last time Aquino led a series of prayer rallies was in late 2000 when civil society groups called for Estrada's ouster because of his alleged involvement in illegal gambling. Back then, she heard Mass in selected churches all over Metro Manila.

In Cebu, former Gov. Emilio Osmeña urged the public to boycott all products of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. as part of protests against the impeachment complaint filed against Davide.

He said he believed that businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair of San Miguel, was behind the impeachment complaint as most of the congressmen who signed it were members of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition.

He told his helpers not buy the products of the company.

Boycott

The Citizens for Judicial Independence (CJI), a multi-sectoral group formed to defend Davide, agreed on Monday to boycott all San Miguel products.

In Quezon, Jun Flores, president of the province's Integrated Bar of the Philippines, urged the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint to account for their Countrywide Development Fund and their commission.

A militant labor group called the row between Davide and the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint a "hypocrisy of elite democracy." ***With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Carla P. Gomez, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Davide foes zero in on ₱120,000 chairs

From page A1

They said they signed the impeachment complaint after, among other reasons, reading documents showing that the Supreme Court had purchased chairs for the justices at the cost of P120,000 each.

Fit for King

"We were taken aback by the price tag," Rep. Agapito Aquino (LDP, Makati) said yesterday. "Not even a king deserves that throne."

Aquino said he knew this for a fact because he used to own Fiberglass Inc., a company that manufactured chairs including pricey ones for executives.

"An executive chair worth P30,000 is already very good," said the brother-in-law of former President Corazon Aquino. "Of course, when you talk about really pricey Italian chairs, these are more expensive, but these are for vanity."

At P120,000, a chair "fit for a king can build a house for the poor," he said.

"Are the justices' butts so fragile that they have to be nestled on expensive cushions?" Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) said derisively.

Loose furniture

Suplico, a lawyer, said even the best jurists would say that there was "no correlation between quality seats and excellent judicial decisions."

Rep. Celso Lobregat (LDP, Zamboanga City) noted that the chairs in question were part of the so-called "loose furniture" for which P8.1 million from the Judiciary Development Fund was spent.

He said the furniture was bought when Davide ordered the refurbishing of the Supreme Court.

Even Lakas Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Bukidnon) said he was shocked to learn that a chair could cost P120,000.

After he signed the impeachment complaint, Zubiri had a heated discussion with his father, Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri, a former congressman.

"But I told [my father] that I had to do it on the basis of principle," Zubiri said.

Diversion of money from the JDF was among the violations cited by the impeachment proponents.

The JDF was created in 1984 through Presidential Decree 1949. It provides that 80 percent of the fund should be used for the cost-of-living allowance (Cola) of employees of the judiciary, and the remaining 20 percent, for office equipment and court facilities.

The impeachment complaint alleges that during the years 2000 to 2002, judiciary employees were underpaid by as much as P500 million.

House as auditor

With the impeachment proponents' stated demand for the opening of the JDF books of accounts as a condition for settling the controversy, the question arises: Can the House do a better job than the Commission on Audit, which is mandated to audit the fund?

Audit

Yet, the impeachment proponents had attached as annexes A-1 to A-8 to the complaint against Davide the COA's audited financial statements on the JDF for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

PD 1949 states that the COA, "through the auditor of the Supreme Court or his duly authorized representative, shall quarterly audit the receipts, revenues, uses, disbursements and expenditures of the [JDF]."

The assigned auditor is to "submit the appropriate report in writing" to the COA chair and to the Chief Justice, "copy furnished the presiding appellate justice of the intermediate appellate court and all executive judges."

PD 1949 does not say that a copy of the COA report is to be officially furnished Congress. It is also silent on the possible oversight powers of Congress over the JDF.

Open to public

A copy of the COA audit report on the JDF for the years 2002, 2001 and 2000 is available not only to members of Congress but also to the public at http://www.supreme-court.gov.ph. One only has to click on the Special Reports marked "New" to get to the audited financial statements.

5 hostages seized in Sabah killed in Tawi-Tawi; 1 survives

From page A1

eratives, were closing in on the kidnappers and their hostages. "We received reports from the locals that there were armed strangers on the island. So we launched an operation," he said.

Allaga said there was a brief exchange of fire when they caught up with the kidnappers. But no casualty among the kidnappers was reported.

He said the kidnappers could have been panicked by the approaching lawmen and decided to kill the hostages. He also said local police had recovered the bodies of the five victims.

No firefight

But reporter Joel Dimaiwat of the Tawi-Tawi-based radio station dxGD quoted Nonoy as saying that there was no firefight, contrary to the military's assertion.

Speaking through an interpreter, Nonoy yesterday told dxGD that he and the others were abducted from the Borneo Paradise Resort on Oct. 2 and not on Oct. 5, as earlier reported.

He said the kidnappers identified themselves as members of the Ashkal or the Malaysian Marines.

Nonoy has been taken to the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City for tactical interrogation.

Commodore Jorge Uy of the Naval Forces West said he had dispatched an Islander plane to track down the kidnappers.

In Manila, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces' vice chief of staff, said a battalion of Marines had been sent to the area.

Undress and run

In his interview with dxGD, Nonoy said the kidnappers had told him and the other hostages that they would be taken to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. But the next day, they found themselves in Bongao.

While there, Nonoy said, the leader of the kidnappers kept on calling the owners of the resort as well as certain groups in Sulu.

He said it seemed that the kidnappers wanted to turn them over to a Sulu group, which he suspected to be composed of Abu Sayyaf bandits, but that the group would not accept them.

At around 1 p.m. on Monday, Nonoy said, the kidnappers told them to undress and run for their lives.

No ransom

He said he ran until he reached a village, where he sought help.

"They were angry at us because the resort owners would not pay the ransom of 5 million [Malaysian ringgit] they were asking in exchange of our freedom," he said.

Reporter Dimaiwat said Bongao police showed Nonoy some photos of Abu Sayyaf members shortly after he was found.

Dimaiwat said Nonoy had positively identified the Abu Sayyaf's Ghalib Andang as the leader of the group that snatched them.

Hiding in cave

"[Andang] was armed and he has more than a hundred followers also fully armed, and they are hiding in that cave where I escaped from," said Dimaiwat, quoting Nonoy's statement to the Bongao police.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said Nonoy's disclosure was interesting. But he insisted that the kidnappers were Malaysian pirates.

Allaga agreed, and added: "We have information from our intelligence operatives that the hostage takers were trying to sell their captives to Radulan Sahiron, but he rejected the offer."

Human shields

Until yesterday, the military had been mum on persistent reports that the kidnappers and their hostages had arrived in the South.

"The six kidnapped victims were in Tawi-Tawi, after all," Garcia said, adding that the kidnappers and their hostages could have stayed in the area for several days.

Garcia said the military was standing by the Southcom report that the five hostages were shot by their abductors. He was commenting on a police report that the kidnappers used the five as "human shields" in the firefight with lawmen and were killed in the process.

He said the military had yet to confirm reports that the kidnappers tried to contact the Abu Sayyaf's Sahiron while they were in Maimbung, Sulu, but were rebuffed.

He also said the military would interrogate Nonoy to establish the circumstances of the kidnapping and shooting as well as the identities of the kidnappers.

Garcia said the 1st Marine Battalion, in close coordination with the police in Tawi-Tawi, was deployed to go after the kidnappers and undertake recovery operations."

He said the military had estimated that the kidnappers numbered between 20 and 30, but had not confirmed if they belonged to the Abu Sayyaf or to a band of Malaysian pirates. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christian V. Esguerra in Manila*

Oakwood rebels back anti-Davide lawmakers

From page A1

The Magdalo Group, composed of mostly junior officers, raised the supposed corruption in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo in mounting the failed mutiny in Makati City on July 27. Its leaders are now in detention.

Fuentebella response

In response, Fuentebella assured the Magdalo leaders and the general public that he would "continue to spearhead" the impeachment of the Chief Justice.

"He [Davide] should be made answerable for diverting public funds intended for the allowances of court workers toward highly objectionable projects and acquisitions," Fuentebella said in a statement.

No compromise

Also yesterday, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned that if the impeachment complaint issue is not resolved credibly and legally, there was a danger of yet another episode of adventurism against the government.

Biazon said he does not agree with the move taken by the administration bloc in the House along with executive officials led by President Macapagal to seek a "compromise and face-saving arrangements" on the impeachment complaint being pushed by a group of congressmen.

He noted that despite President Macapagal's earlier pronouncements that she will not intervene in the impeachment issue, she was reported to be talking to Eduardo Cojuangco.

"What is that all about? Are we compromising basic constitutional issues," Biazon said, as he noted that "anything not legally and credibly resolved would backfire."

Impact on 2004

Biazon said the impeachment issue if not legally and credibly resolved could "impact" on the May 2004 elections.

He urged the government to ensure that the impeachment process "progress according to the processes so defined under our laws."

Otherwise, he said it would be "arming" the adventurists "for whatever they have in mind."

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, a ranking member of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, likewise warned of another coup attempt by rightist groups should the political and economic situation continue to deteriorate as a result of Davide's impeachment.

Lozada said such groups could take advantage of the situation by launching a rebellion on the pretext of saving the country. He said things would even worsen once the Articles of Impeachment are transmitted to the Senate.

Military ready

But the military was quick to say that it would quell any destabilization attempt that might arise.

"If there will be security implications as far as [the impeachment of Davide] is concerned, then the Armed Forces will be ready to act," Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, told reporters.

"We would like things not to get out of hand ... and if there will be security implications, the [military] is ready to make sure that peace is preserved," he said.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP chief of staff, said Monday that he was "closely monitoring the situation" in the military for any possible destabilization plot.

Garcia said yesterday that no suspicious "movement" had been detected, and that a destabilization plot against the government was "a remote possibility."

Anarchy

In a resolution, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers Inc. (Agfo) cautioned lawmakers against pressing ahead with the impeachment trial of the Chief Justice.

The group composed of retired military and police officials expressed alarm at the "unwelcome impeachment," saying it was fraught with danger and "might bring incalculable damage to Philippine democracy."

"The impeachment proceedings can result in a constitutional crisis that could plunge the country into anarchy and self-destruction given the fact that it is already reeling from all kinds of problems," said Agfo chair/president Ernesto Gidaya, a retired general.

Big disappointment

Gidaya pointed out that the filing of the second complaint against Davide had been "challenged as unconstitutional," and that the grounds cited were not "grave enough to warrant the extraordinary remedy of impeachment [when] weighed against the serious implications that the process inflicts on the country."

He warned that the ensuing volatile situation could be exploited by "enemies of the state or groups out to grab government power."

According to Gidaya, the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice "weakens" the last bastion of Philippine democratic institutions and "erodes" public trust in the judiciary.

"The indictment of Davide, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee and acclaimed as the most respected Filipino with an impeccable reputation, is a big disappointment to the general public," he added.

Down the drain

Lozada likened the consequences of Davide's impeachment to that of a military coup, with the people and the country at the losing end.

"All the negative effects on the economy are there," he said. "This impeachment case definitely [involves] this nation and its people."

Lozada said the impeachment would "bring the economy down the drain."

"It will be the menu of the day in the newspapers, radio and television. We will have a more chaotic situation," he said, and cited the troubled stock market. *(See Story on Page A1.)Carlito Pablo, Christine Avendaño,TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Balana*

Davide son in the eye of a storm

From page A1

Remulla said, had been given the power to administer the fund.

Bryan is also co-chair of the committee on the Halls of Justice, and, from time to time, represents the Chief Justice (CJ) in meetings of the court's working committees.

Strategic, unethical

Jaraula and Remulla pointed out that Brian's position, as vice chair of the tribunal's bid and award committee, was strategic, but unethical. The high court's BAC was created in 2001 to ensure a transparent bidding process for all the projects to be undertaken by the high court.

The two congressman said Bryan sitting as vice chair of BAC violated a "certain degree of ethical and moral standards" observed by court officials across the land.

To which Bryan said: "We follow the law. Precisely, it is very clear that our (job in the BAC) is merely recommendatory. We submit all documents to the CJ, and the CJ submits them to the en banc (full court)."

He said it was not his role, or the BAC, to choose the projects. "It is the court that decides, we only implement (the decisions) ... by the book. I work within my capacity, within the limits of my position."

He explained that as CJ's "head of staff," he represented the CJ in certain administrative functions, "but I don't have the right or personality to involve myself with judicial matters or other policy matters. Anything CJ wants me to do, that's what I do."

Bryan, though careful not to comment on the merits of the impeachment complaint against his father, said the complaint contained "malicious accusations."

Although a non-lawyer, he has carefully guarded the court's secrets since his father assumed the top Supreme Court post in 1998. "I know my place," said Bryan. "People see me because I move around the court. But I'm not high-profile, definitely not."

Good orator

Bryan had done well academically and was a good orator, having won several inter-grade contests, according to Velazquez.

Bryan is the second among four siblings. He is married to a stewardess. The couple has a 3-year-old son.

A younger sister, Noreen Davide-Salas, also occupies a confidential position in the high tribunal. Salas is in charge of correspondence at the Office of the Chief Justice, said Felipe Velasquez, Ester Velasquez' husband and a partner at the Davide law firm.

Flunked

Hilario III, is a lawyer. Another brother Boyet, is a Manila-based architect. Leila, a doctor, is now in the United States.

Bryan finished his secondary education at the University of the Philippines (UP). Bryan took AB Philosophy in the University of the Philippines, but finished law in San Beda College in 1997. A year later, he took but flunked the bar examinations.

Bryan said he did not re-take the bar exams since then "because of pressure from work," and out of *delicadeza* owing to his father's position.

Bad penmanship

Felipe Velasquez said Bryan flunked the bar, not because he was not intelligent but because of his "poor handwriting."

"His penmanship was like that of a doctor . . . but he is very bright. He is a good guy," he said.

Hilario III confirmed that his brother's penmanship was so bad that it was difficult to read.

Bryan started working at the SC in 1991 as a member of his father's confidential staff. At that time, his father was still an associate justice.

Hilario III said his father appointed Bryan to the BAC because he needed somebody he could trust.

Tough

He pointed out that Bryan, whom he described as a stickler for rules, was qualified for the job. "Bryan is *tigas* (tough)," and cannot just be approached by individuals seeking special favors, Hilario III said.

He said his brother had shown leadership skills when he was core commander of the Civilian Army Training at the UP High School. Bryan also headed the fraternity for Cebuanos at UP Diliman called Brotherhood of the Filipinos 1955.

Felipe Velasquez pointed out that Bryan had a degree in law and thus, qualified to sit in the bidding committee.

"In the College of Law, we have legal accounting. We are well prepared for any kind of job," he said.

Angry

Hilario III admitted that the accusations against his father and brother were hurting his family. "We are praying very hard. We know the motives behind this," he said. "I am angry. All of us are. But this will pass." He said the family was touched by the outpouring of public support for the Chief Justice.

Fighting mood

Hilario III said his father was in a "fighting mood" when they talked over the weekend. "The important thing is, he (the Chief Justice) is ready," he said.

Despite his father's powerful position, Bryan is unlike the other children of retired magistrates and chief justices, according to Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan.

"Well, I cannot make comparisons," said Khan referring to Bryan and Martin Narvasa, the youngest son of Davide's predecessor, Andres Narvasa Jr.

"I never knew who that guy was," said Khan, who started working in the SC about two years ago.

The young Narvasa was thrust into the limelight after he chased and mauled five security guards inside the tribunal's compound on Oct. 23, 1997. At the time Narvasa Jr. was still chief justice, and Martin was chief of the Supreme Court's Committee on the Halls of Justice.

Berserk

Martin went berserk after seeing his Toyota Lite Ace, parked in front of the SC building on Padre Faura Street, Manila, bearing scratches. Apparently convinced that the guards were behind the damage, he kicked and punched the first three guards he chanced upon at the parking area.

The incident caused embarrassment to his father who, bowing to public pressure, later sacked Martin and ordered him to pay the damages he caused to the tribunal's property.

But Bryan didn't have any skirmishes with court guards or employees. "I don't want to make a comparison (or) go down to that level. I can stand on my own merits. There is no need (for me) to be compared with other people. I want other people to judge me as I am," he said.

Saguisag: Sack son, censure pa

From page A1

Supreme Court's bid and award committee for infrastructure "out of delicadeza."

Saguisag noted that such "a solution less than removal" was a form of "compromise seriously considered" by the US Congress in the 1998 sex scandal that hounded then President Bill Clinton.

Way out

"If he's censured, his son is removed, and he (elder Davide) acknowledges the oversight powers of the House, that may be satisfactory to most congressmen to persuade them to withdraw (their impeachment complaint)," Saguisag said at a media forum in Quezon City.

Saguisag offered this way out for Davide although he served as the lawyer of deposed Joseph Estrada, who last May filed a separate impeachment complaint against Davide and seven justices.

Asked if Davide could be spared under his proposed solution, Saguisag said "It's not what the chief may want to favor but its one solution just so that he will not be removed." So that the current political tension may also be finally "defused," he said.

But another former senator, Juan Ponce Enrile, said Davide must still submit himself to the impeachment process if only to clear his name and that of the high tribunal.

At the same forum, Enrile, president of the Philippine Constitutional Association, said resolving the issues against Davide through mere compromise would not dispel the "people's suspicions" fueled by the impeachment complaint.

Disservice

It will also be a "disservice" to Davide and to the judicial system if civil society groups supporting him, including court judges, continue holding sympathy rallies or mass leaves, according to Enrile.

Over dzBB, Enrile said that he counted Davide among his closer friends and that personally "I believe he probably didn't do anything wrong."

Not above law

But still, he said, Davide "must show he's not above the law," otherwise his would be considered another case of the "elite protecting their own."

A group of young lawyers belonging to the Public Interest Law Center (PILC) also wants Davide to face the impeachment trial. In a statement, the PILC, led by Marie Yuvienco, said there was nothing wrong with Davide going to trial.

"If the Supreme Court believes in our democratic institutions, then the justices should be the first ones to welcome going to trial, so they could teach us lawyers how it is done, so that they could show the public how moribund and bankrupt the House of Representatives is. Doesn't anybody fight for the truth anymore?" the group said.

It deplored the "wheeling-and-dealing" between the high court and Congress.

The group said that "only civil cases like contracts or torts and damages should be the subject of compromise in the ordinary course of litigation. This impeachment case is not a car accident. It involves the highest public interest. Or may the justices see it as a hit-and-run case. With the interest of justice being the victim."

The PILC said it was neither for nor against Davide.

The House leadership's attempt at an honorable solution to a possible constitutional crisis is bogged down by the issue of which constitutional provision outweighs the other—the judiciary's fiscal autonomy or the legislature's right to examine the government's budget, according to Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Resolve impasse

Guingona urged legal experts in the government and in the academe to help resolve the constitutional impasse that may arise from the impeachment case initiated by more than 80 members of the House of Representatives against Davide.

"The administration is still looking for a formula (out of this stalemate). Speaker Jose De Venecia's formula for a win-win solution is basically OK but it was weighed down by this issue," Guingona told reporters at an anti-trade liberalization forum.

"The Constitution gave fiscal autonomy to the judiciary but there is also a (constitutional) provision that says Congress has a right to look into the budget of government branches. This is the reason for the stand off," the Vice President added.

Dialogue

For the incoming head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, dialogue can resolve the rift between the Supreme Court and the House.

"Consistent with my recent public statements, I call our people in Davao to appeal to our justices and congressional leaders to make use of respectful dialogue to resolve their differences, and to reconcile, not as friends and servants of the people, but as brothers and sisters in the Faith," Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said in a statement. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Martin Posadas Marfil*

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E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Diarrhea downs 300 in Tondo

Outbreak traced to busted pipes

By Tarra Quismundo

CONTAMINATED water sent hundreds of Manila residents to hospitals beginning Thursday last week in what city health officials described as an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis.

City health officials said three have died due to dehydration. They identified these as Aquilino Sarmiento Sr., 70; Lucien Respall, 56; and Redeemer Manabat, 7.

As of Monday morning, a total of 318 people had sought help at the various hospitals in the city, sanitation inspector Clemente San Gabriel told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the number could be higher because not all had sought professional medical attention.

According to San Gabriel, people who went to the hospital complained of stomach pains, vomiting and diarrhea.

However, he added, that as of Tuesday afternoon, only 215 cases were confirmed as gastroenteritis.

The remaining 103 cases were either yet to be confirmed or were declared as diarrhea due to "other causes."

Manila health officials have sought the help of the Department of Health's epidemiology division to determine whether the cases included cholera.

No new cases were reported Monday afternoon up to yesterday as local health authorities declared the situation under control.

Manila health and sanitation officials identified the affected areas as Velasquez, Capulong, Varona and Raxabago streets, as well as Dagupan extension.

Health authorities said the outbreak was caused by E. coli bacteria in waste water that seeped into the water pipes of the affected Tondo residents.

E. coli is usually found in human waste.

Dr. Florante Baltazar, head of the Manila Health Department, said the bacteria entered the water supply through broken pipes, illegal connections and water lines damaged by road and other maintenance work.

Maynilad Water Services Inc., which blamed illegal connections and the use of booster pumps as the primary cause of the outbreak, supplies the water of the Tondo area.

The water firm urged residents to report illegal connections and to stop using booster pumps to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Diarrhea-stricken residents, mostly from Velasquez street, began pouring into hospitals starting midnight Thursday.

The number of patients flocking to seek medical attention peaked on Saturday.

Data gathered by the Manila Division of Preventable Diseases showed that 115 were confirmed at the San Lazaro Hospital, 26 at the Gat Andres Bonifacio, 13 at the Ospital ng Tondo, 41 at the Mary Johnston Hospital, and 20 at the Tondo General Hospital.

These were treated with oral rehydration salts and intravenous rehydration solutions.

San Gabriel said the Maynilad conducted tests on water samples randomly taken from 18 sites in the affected area and it was discovered that the tap water had very low to zero traces of residual chlorine.

Chlorine, a chemical infused into the water during treatment in reservoirs, is intended to kill disease-causing microorganisms.

Following the outbreak, Maynilad performed emergency treatment of the water supply by injecting chlorine into the pipes.

It also assigned four water tankers to provide safe drinking water to residents of the affected areas.

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. advised the public to boil their drinking water and immediately seek medical help if they suffer symptoms of gastroenteritis.

With a report from Edson Tandoc Jr.

FUN TREAT
Children of the INQUIRER's staff show off their costumes during a Halloween trick or treat party held at the paper's office in Makati City. ERIK ARAZAS

4 cops disrupt party

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) based in Laguna have been accused of terrorizing a Manila neighborhood Sunday by disrupting a barangay party, beating up a resident and firing their guns indiscriminately.

P03 Delfin Silva of the Western Police District identified one of the SAF members as P01 Larry Rollan Rey, of the Task Force Renegade in Laguna.

Rey dropped his .45-caliber pistol during the incident at about 12:30 a.m. along Loreto and A.H. Lacson streets in Barangay 420, Zone 43, Sampaloc.

He was later nabbed when he tried to reclaim his gun.

Vicencio men defy reshuffle

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

CONFLICT is threatening to erupt at the Malabon City Hall after officials and employees identified with suspended mayor Amado Vicencio defied yesterday a reshuffle by acting-local chief executive Jayjay Yambao.

Calling the reshuffle a form of "political harassment," some of the officials ordered re-assigned vowed to put up a fight.

Marvin Amiana, City Business Permits and License Office chief who was ordered by Yambao to transfer to the Office of the City Administrator, told the INQUIRER yesterday that he would not leave his post.

Employees at the permits and license office also threatened to go on a mass leave should the acting mayor force Amiana's transfer.

In a memorandum issued by Yambao, he stressed that the reshuffle was necessary to "forestall any possible obstructions in the course of performing our mandated tasks."

Yambao later told the INQUIRER that the reassignments were being done so that key positions in the local government would be occupied by people whom he trusted.

He warned defiant officials that he would charge them with insubordination should they insist on holding on to their posts.

But instead of backing down, Amiana said he was willing to face Yambao before the Civil Service Commission.

MESSAGE

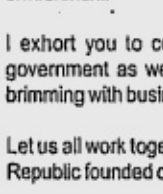
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I send my warmest greetings to the **ORO CHAMBER** as you hold your ***12th Mindanao Business Conference (12th MINBIZCON).***

This gathering is truly an opportune time to discuss relevant platforms for enhanced production and to ensure cost-effective solutions to shifting market conditions. Indeed, your relentless advocacy to address crucial concerns, particularly in investment promotion and business facilitation, helps in achieving a vibrant dynamic business environment.

I exhort you to continue your strategic partnership with the government as we aim to establish Mindanao as a trade hub brimming with business and tourism opportunities.

Let us all work together to reap the benefits of a Strong Philippine Republic founded on greater solidarity and unity.



MESSAGE

CONSTANTINO G. JARAULA
Representative
Lone District, Cagayan de Oro City

The growth and progress of any community, and for the matter the country, can be propelled faster and more vigorously by the activism and vision of the private sector.

The Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation, Inc. **(ORO CHAMBER)** has distinguished itself through the years in this growth and progress not only of the City of Cagayan de Oro and the Province of Misamis Oriental but even as a supportive arm of Region 10 and the island of Mindanao.

My family joins me in extending our warmest congratulations to the officers and members of the **ORO CHAMBER** for initiating and hosting the 12th Mindanao Business Conference. To all delegates, friends, guests and participants our heartfelt felicitations, and welcome to the City of Golden Friendship.

MABUHAY!

MINDANAO BUSINESS CONFERENCE

October 29, -31, 2003
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October 29, 2003, 2:00 pm
OPENING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor: Trade Secretary **MAR ROXAS**

October 29, 2003, 5:00 pm
SPECIAL SESSION
Guest of Honor: Former President **FIDEL V. RAMOS**

October 30, 2003,
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MESSAGE

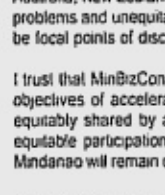
VICENTE Y. EMANO
City Mayor
Cagayan de Oro City

The infusion of unprecedented capital supports and assistance by the national government and international communities have boosted Mindanao to the threshold of genuine socio-economic developments that may finally concretize its fulfillment as our Promised Land. However, to ensure and to fast track matters, it is imperative that Mindanaoans must initiate and sustain their own supportive and coordinative activities in their respective areas.

The holding of the 12th Mindanao Business Conference (12th MinBizCon) this October 29 - 31, 2003 with the theme: "One Global Mindanao" exemplifies what Mindanao coordinative activity must be. With the expected attendance of local and national business leaders together with those from BIMP-EAGA Group, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, Mindanao's persistent peace problems and unequitable sharing of economic opportunities and benefits can be local points of discussions and suggested solution.

I trust that MinBizCon shall remain active and expansive in pursuing its core objectives of accelerating business growth and development that shall be equitably shared by all social sectors in Mindanao. For, definitely, without equitable participation in business activities and sharing from their benefits, Mindanao will remain divided and economically retarded.

Meanwhile, to all participants in this conference, I convey our sincerest welcome. I also urge everyone to enjoy the scenic beauty and to sample the open business amenities of our booming, blooming and blossoming city.



MESSAGE

ENGR. GABRIEL B. EVANGELISTA
President
ORO CHAMBER

It is with great pride that I welcome you all to the 12th Mindanao Business Conference as host chamber president. To the participants, we hope that you will find the conference design that we have prepared to be useful and relevant to your respective enterprises. The timing of this Conference is such that whatever information we all could gather during this event would prove invaluable in charting the course of our businesses in 2004.

It is also our wish that you will also find time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental. Perhaps after the conference or at some future time, you may want to partake of the enchantment of nearby Camiguin Island. Or bask in the fresh air and greenery of the mountains of Bukidnon. Or explore the hidden potentials of Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte. For indeed, Cagayan de Oro is the gateway to the rest of Northern Mindanao.

At the end of the day, it is my fervent prayer that you would have made more friends, and possibly business partners when we conclude this 12th Mindanao Business Conference

The business community of Cagayan de Oro most sincerely thanks the City Government of Cagayan de Oro under Hon. Mayor Vicente Y. Emano for the full support it has lent to the Conference. To our Cooperators, sponsors and benefactors, we are humbled by your confidence and total cooperation.

To all of us... MABUHAY!

Advt.

All set for All Saints'

By Margaux Ortiz, Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

"WE DO not foresee any major problem in Metro Manila this weekend."

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday referred to the observance of All Saints' Day on Saturday and All Souls' Day on Sunday.

He said that traffic during the weekend would be concentrated in areas near terminals of provincial buses and around major cemeteries.

He stressed that all MMDA personnel will be on duty during the weekend.

Fernando said that 786 traffic enforcers will be deployed around the cemeteries and eight tow trucks will be on standby to take care of illegally parked and stalled vehicles.

Rerouting plan in Manila

According to the MMDA rerouting plan to be enforced in the vicinity of the North Cemetery and Chinese Cemetery in Manila:

• Trucks and buses coming from Balintawak area, along A. Bonifacio Road, and heading towards Manila, must turn left to Sgt. Emilio Rivera Street, right to D. Tuazon Street, right to Calamba Street, then to Manila.

• Vehicles entering Ma. Clara Street, must turn left to Banaue Street, left to Sgt. Rivera Street, then right to A. Bonifacio Road to its point of origin.

• Private vehicles and passenger jeeps, to include taxi cabs coming from the Balintawak area and heading towards Manila, must enter Mayon Street, which is a one-way street, from Del Monte Avenue to Sct. Alcaraz Street, right to Retiro Street then left to Dr. Alejos Street, right to Don Manuel Agregado Street, cross Blumentritt Extension, enter Makiling Street, then to their destination.

Reverse route

• Motorists bound for Balintawak must go straight to Retiro Street, which is a one-way street, from Blumentritt Extension to Mariveles Street, then left to Community Development Center Street, which is also a one-way street, right to Sct. Alcaraz Street, left to Speaker Perez Street, left to Del Monte Avenue, right to A. Bonifacio Road then on to Balintawak.

• All light vehicles coming from the general direction of San Francisco Del Monte, along Del Monte Avenue, must turn left to Mayon Street, right to Retiro Street then left to Dr. Alejos Street, right to Don Manuel Agregado Street, cross Blumentritt Extension, enter Makiling Street, then to its destination.

• All light vehicles coming from the general direction of Barangay Sto. Domingo, along NS Amoranto Street, must cross Mayon Street and follow the route previously mentioned.

• The whole stretch of A. Bonifacio Road, adjacent to the cemetery shall be considered a no parking zone to ensure the safety of the pedestrians.

Rerouting plan in Marikina

According to the plan to be enforced in the vicinity of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City:

• One-way traffic flow would be implemented on A. Bonifacio Street going to Marikina.

• Motorists going to Quezon City could take the Marcos Highway or the short cut at Tumana Bridge.

• They may also take J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Concepcion Uno, which leads to the Batasan Complex in Quezon City and Rizal towns.

1,000 volunteers

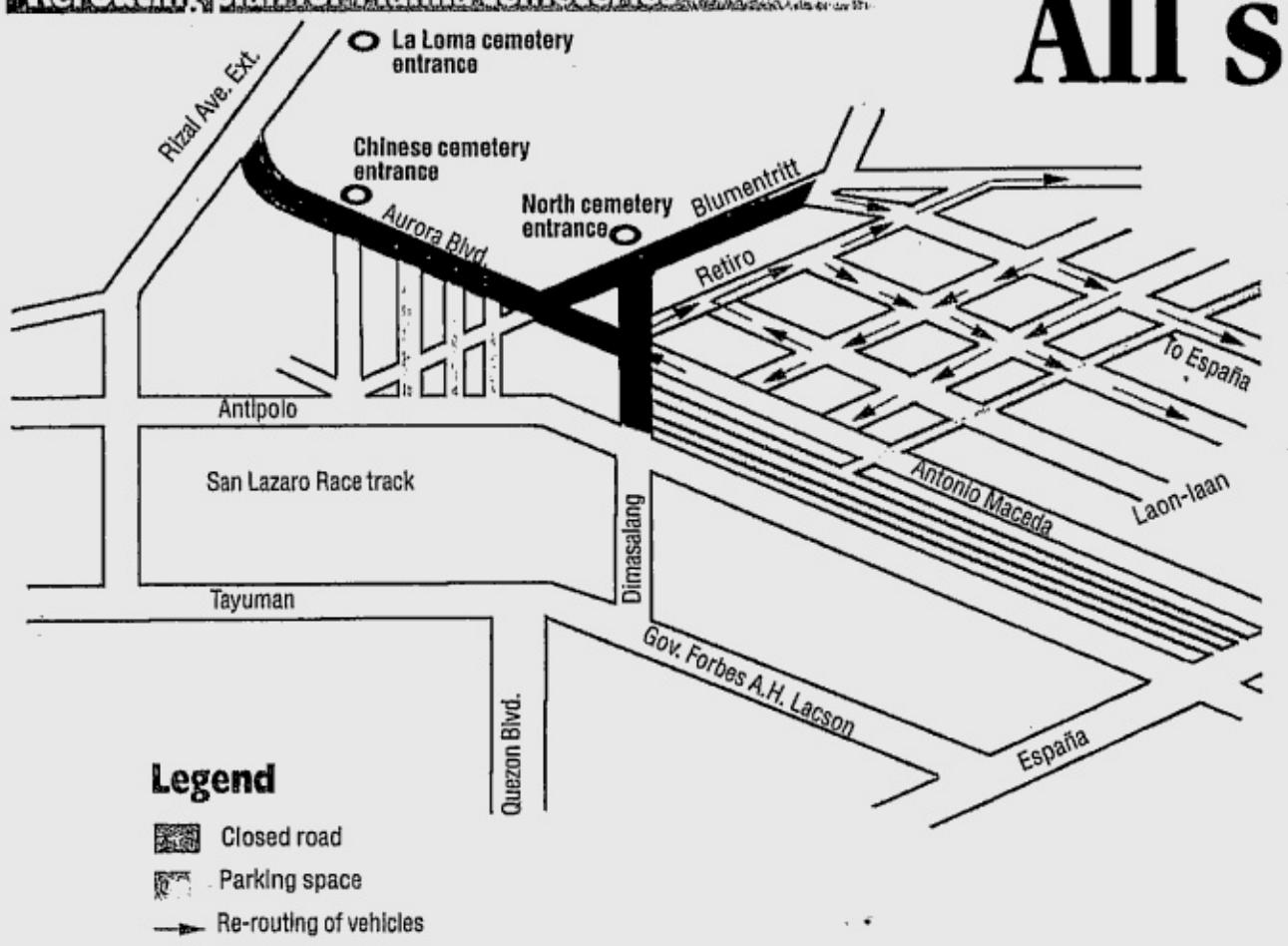
Marikina City police chief Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. yesterday said that at least 45 uniformed lawmen would be stationed at the Loyola Memorial center to secure people visiting the dead.

At least 1,000 barangay security officers and volunteers will complement the police force, Abaring said.

He said all city ordinances regarding All Souls Day would be strictly implemented.

"Alcohol and gambling are not allowed in cemeteries," the official said. "Those who are half-naked will be apprehended."

Rerouting plan for Manila cemeteries



Traffic in Pasig City gets out of hand

By Luige del Puerto

TRAFFIC congestion in Pasig City, aggravated by the construction of a flyover on Meralco Avenue, is getting out of hand, motorists complained yesterday.

What used to be a 30-minute drive from the Pasig City Hall to SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City now takes two hours, said Edgar Ballesteros, 38, an FX taxi driver for eight years.

"We have been losing at least half of what we used to earn these past two weeks," Ballesteros told the INQUIRER.

He said the worst congestions occur when the malls at the Ortigas Center simultaneously offer three-day sales.

"This is very frustrating," said Arnold Seno of Quezon City.

Of particular concern are some streets near the Philsports Arena, where no traffic enforcer is stationed, and on Shaw Boulevard Extension.

As a result, the streets are in chaos. Motorists tend to cut into the lanes of other vehicles, even going against the flow of traffic as they wish, Ballesteros said.

On Danny Floro corner Henry Javier Streets, some motorists had to get off their vehicles to direct the traffic.

Col. Alberto Dulay (ret.), head of the city's traffic management, said they are set to reroute traffic flow in key areas in the city.

The construction of a flyover on Meralco Avenue corner Julio Vargas Street is the cause of the traffic jam, Dulay said.

"The construction will take some time so we will have to reroute traffic," he said. "We hope motorists will understand. We will all benefit from this once (the flyover construction) is finished."

METROBRIEFS

Privilege comes with a price

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said that discipline is the key to organizing street vendors in the city. "We must harness their desire to be productive, not drive them away," Atienza said. The mayor said that this idea of organizing vendors is where he and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando differ in opinion. "Where are Marikina's vendors now? They are in Pasay, Quezon City, and other parts of Metro Manila," Atienza said. The mayor, who got back last Friday from a summit in Thailand, said that a bit of Bangkok will soon be seen in Manila. Atienza said that he will organize vendors in Quiapo, based on the system he picked up in Bangkok. According to the system, which Atienza said continues to draw tourists to Bangkok, the vendors will be allowed to put up their stalls in the morning, sell their wares throughout the day, and then fold up at night. But Atienza said this "privilege" comes with a price—the vendors must learn to discipline themselves. *Tarra Quismundo*

Cheating wife

AN OVERSEAS Filipino worker yesterday had his wife jailed after he caught her having sex with a woman inside their house in Marikina City. The 34-year-old OFW, a resident of Barangay Parang, arrived home at 11:25 p.m. Monday and saw his 34-year-old wife in a "very compromising situation" with her girlfriend, according to police. The husband kept his cool and filed a complaint with the police. At first, officers of the Police Women's Desk were at a loss as to what to charge the lovers with. "We can't charge them with adultery because the law says only a wife caught having sexual intercourse with a man can be charged for the offense," she said. "Neither can we charge them with polygamy." INQUIRER lawyer Raul Palabrica said the two could be charged with acts of lasciviousness, which carries a penalty of a maximum of 6 months imprisonment. Behind bars, the lovers refused to answer questions. *Luige del Puerto*

Fugitive snared

AFTER four years in hiding, the suspect in the killing of a Manila policeman will finally undergo trial after Makati lawmen arrested the fugitive on Monday. Simplicio Garin, a former barangay tanod, is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Manuel Muro of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 54. Garin yesterday was turned over to the homicide section of the Western Police District. The warrant was issued based on the dying words of SP01 Roque Blanco Sr., who uttered the suspect's name as the victim was being taken to the hospital on a taxi, said SP02 Virgo Villareal. Garin allegedly stabbed Blanco on Nov. 22, 1999 in Ermita, Manila. The suspect then went into hiding, but was spotted in Makati by two witnesses who, in turn, called the police. *Leila Salaverria*

How not to steal a cellular phone

RUBEN Perez, suspected of stealing the mobile phone of his neighbor, landed in jail after the victim was able to trace the missing phone to the suspect's house at dawn yesterday in Pasig City.

Perez, 38, of Pineda, Pasig City, told police that he did not know how to turn off a mobile phone—much less use one.

Randy Canta, 19, also of Barangay Pineda, woke up at about 4 a.m. and found that his Nokia 3310 phone was missing.

P03 Ernesto Paraso said Canta then borrowed the mobile phone of a housemate and called his own number.

To his surprise, Perez heard a familiar ring tone coming from Perez's house about a block away, Paraso said.

The victim called the police, who confronted Perez about the theft.

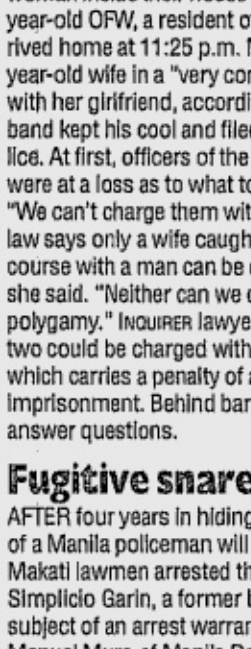
Under intense questioning, the suspect broke down and admitted he stole the phone.

He said he hid the phone in a drum full of water, hoping that the phone would stop ringing.

The phone stopped ringing. Also, it is now useless.

"He really doesn't know anything about mobile phones," Paraso said. "How could he sell the phone when he soaked it in water?" *Luige del Puerto*

Help us find him



BRANDY D. Jones

BRANDY D. Jones, 12, has been missing since Oct. 4.

Jones, a resident of Block 3, Lot 28, Virra Ville Village, Grande Classic, BF Resort Las Piñas, was last seen wearing a white t-shirt and basketball shorts.

Those who may have any information on the missing boy may call Errol at 837-6780.

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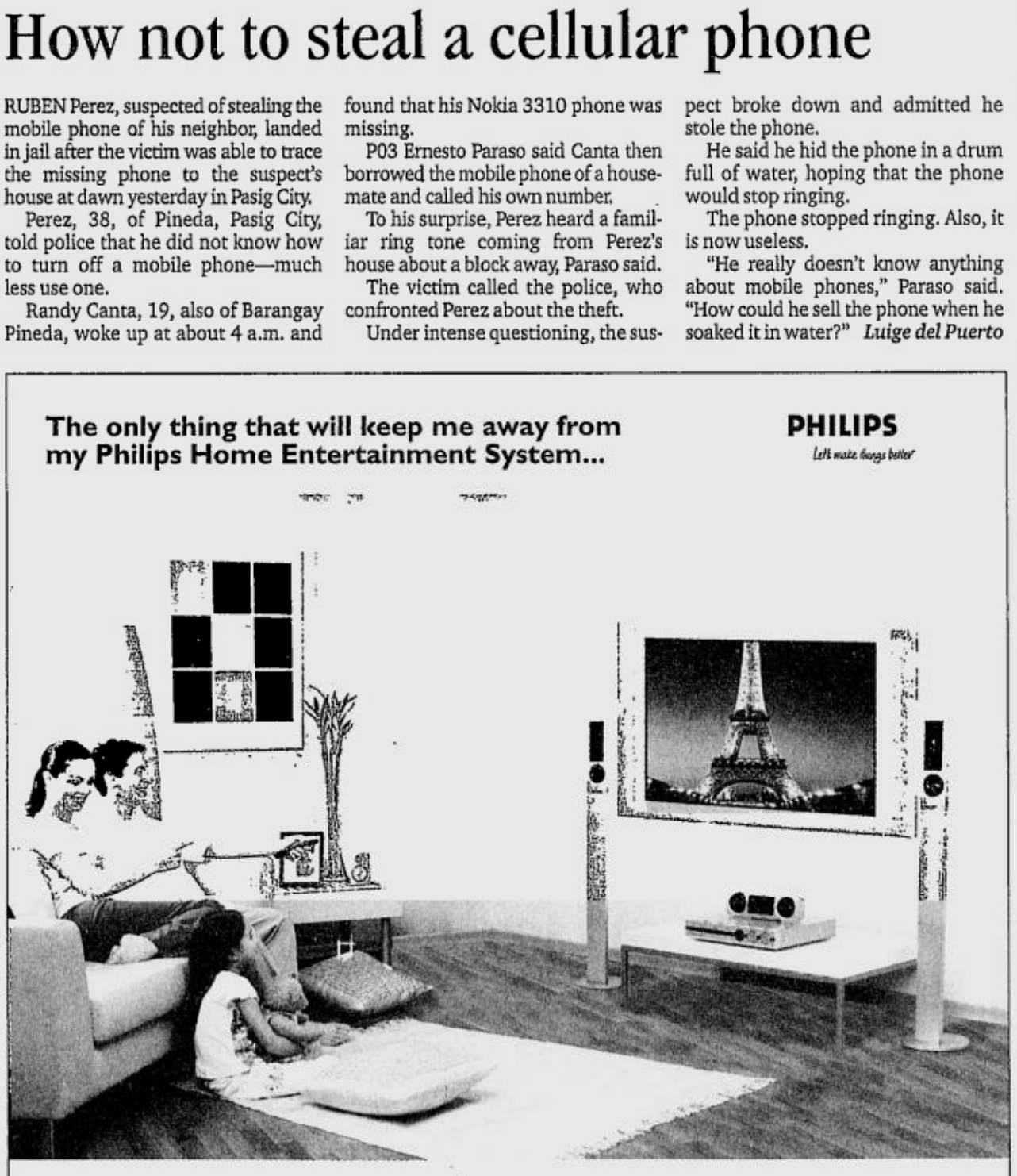

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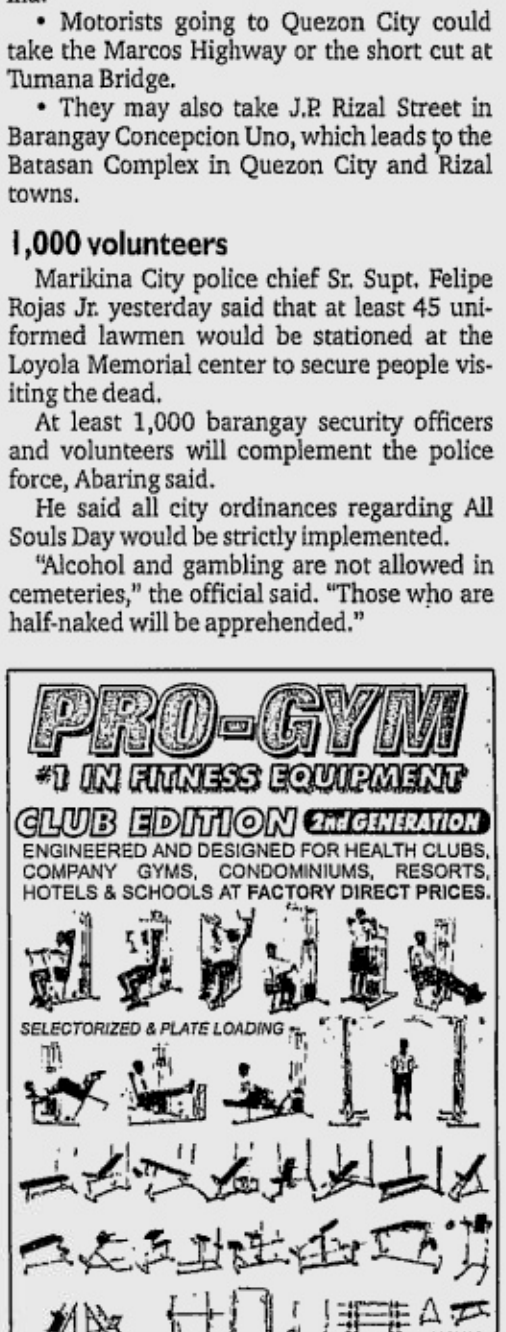

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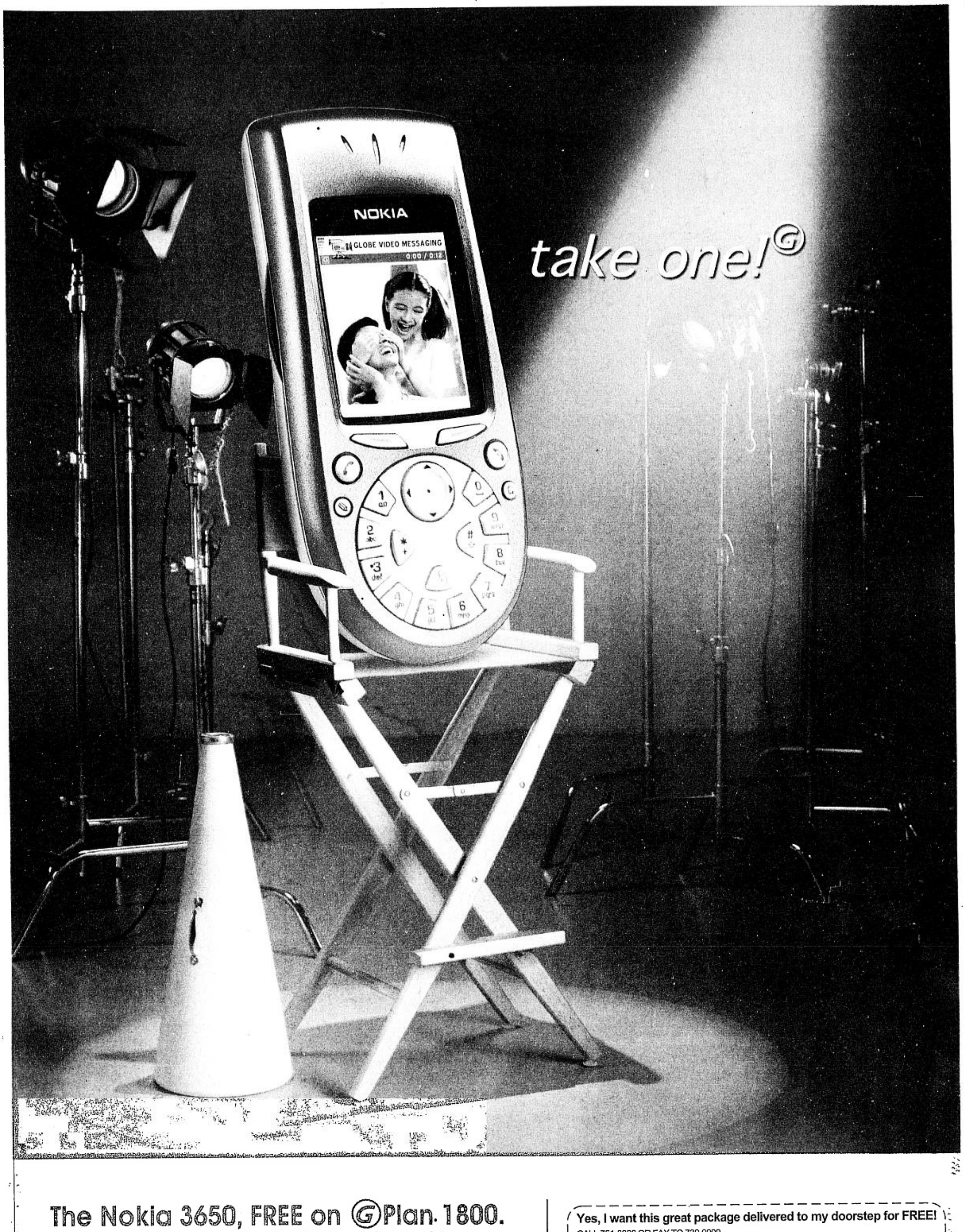

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AFRO-ASIAN GAMES

4 RP boxers assured of medals

By Roy Luarca

HYDERABAD, India—Four for four.

Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo beat Algeria's Malik Bouyiane by jury's decision, 2-1, Monday to complete the Filipino boxers' romp into the semifinals of the 1st Afro-Asian Games here.

The victory assured Gamo of at least a bronze medal, just like compatriots lightflyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla and Roel Laguna.

Also doing the country proud in this 97-nation event were the swimmers, who produced one silver and two bronzes, and the tennis players, who accounted for two bronzes and are assured of at least two more.

Lucena City find Lianne Marice Marquez, 14, accounted for the silver in the 50-meter backstroke for women, while Michael Mars Danila and Marinela Arabejo produced the bronzes in the men's 50m backstroke and women's 200m individual medley, respectively.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Patricia Santos placed third in the women's tennis team event, just like Johnny Arcilla and Joseph Victorino in their division.

Arevalo stormed into the women's singles semifinals by hurdling Indon Septi Nidya Yutani, 6-1, 6-7, 7-5, yesterday.

Earlier, Arcilla bested Sri Lanka's Rohan de Silva, 7-5, 6-4, making up for the 6-1, 4-6, 6-7 loss Victorino absorbed at the hands of Nigeria's Sanday Maku in men's singles.

Tañamor beat Namibia's Joseph Jermia, 21-10, while Payla trounced Tanzania's Rajab Omari Mibwana, 19-10, in the quarterfinals. Laguna got the luck of the draw.

Gamo's victory disappointed the Algerian, who stayed in the ring long after the outcome had been announced. Later, the Algerians filed a protest which will be resolved Wednesday.

Tañamor, Payla and Laguna fight in the semifinals Wednesday against talented rivals.

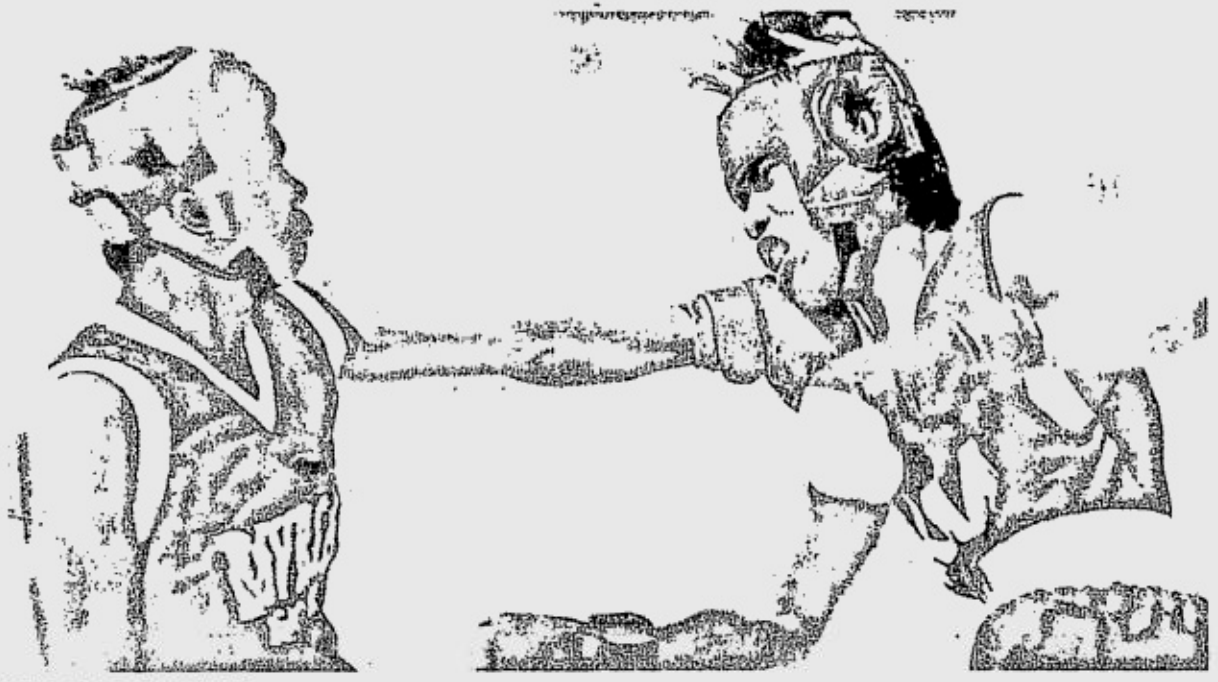
Gamo returns to the ring hopefully Thursday against Uzbekistan's Bahodirjon Sooltonov, a bronze medalist in the recent World Championships in Thailand.

"*Pipilitin naming manalo* (We'll try to win)," said the 25-year-old Tañamor, a silver medalist in the Busan Asiad who will be ranged against tough Kazakh bet Serik Sikymbayev in the semis.

The boxers took a rest Tuesday after a 90-minute workout conducted by coach Pat Gaspi, who expects at least two golds from his wards, whose campaign here is backed by Revicon, Accel and Pacific Heights.

ABAP president Manny Lopez, who is here as a technical delegate of Asia in boxing, said the boxers are doing well and are determined to win.

After four days of action, China paces the medal race with 10 golds and 2 silvers, followed by Japan (6-2-1), Nigeria (4-2-3), Korea (4-2-2) and India (3-10-13). The Philippines is in 13th place with a 0-1-3 tally behind Thailand (0-2-0).



PALARO ACTION
Jonas Jerusalem of Zamboanga connects with a left to the jaw of Jether Oliva of Central Mindanao to win the lightflyweight division in the Palarong Pambansa. *See Games story on page A26.*

EDWIN BACASMAS

Gabito, Torres get going in long jump final today

HYDERABAD, INDIA—Long jumpers Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres begin the Filipino tracksters' quest for glory today in the 1st Afro-Asian Games at the GMC Bakayogi Stadium here.

Bulauitan, third placer in the Manila Asian Athletic Association Championships last month and the recent Busan Invitationals, and Torres, winner in the Vietnam Open two weeks back, are hopeful of putting up creditable performances when they compete against a Chinese and four African bets.

"Okay *naman ang preparasyon namin. Hindi nga lang namin alam ang lakas ng mga kala-*

GABITO/ A26

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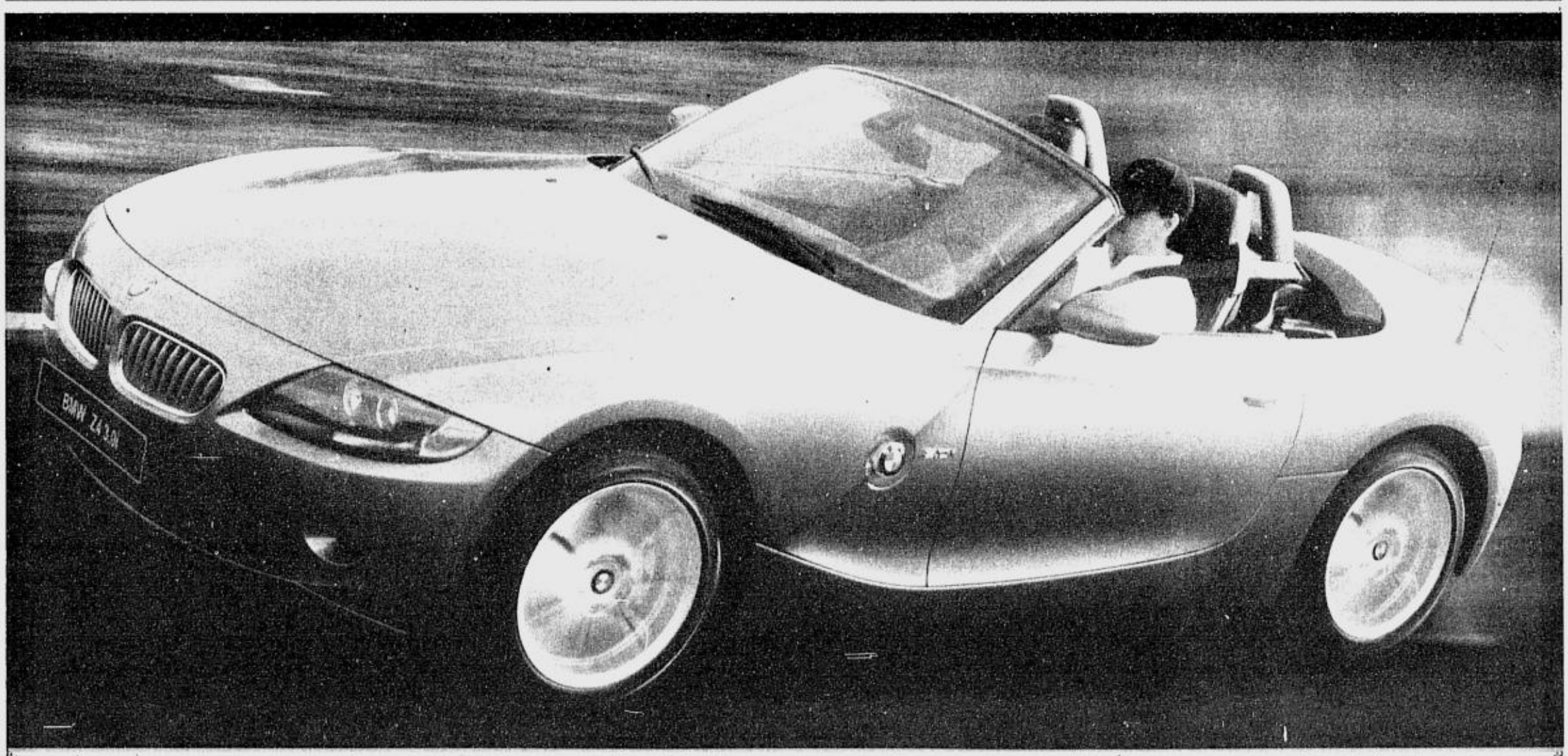

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Longshot Tanio stuns Immonen; Django falls

By Dennis U. Eroa

QUALIFIER Venancio Tanio rocked the On Cue II Studio 23: Battle of Champions 9-ball showdown with a stirring 7-6 conquest of former World Pool titlist Mika Immonen yesterday before an appreciative crowd at the Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas.

Hardly bothered by Immonen's sterling credentials, the 32-year-old Ilonggo, who learned the tricks of the trade in the billiards halls of Novaliches, refused to blink in the face of the Finn's determined challenge to score the biggest victory of his career.

"I wasn't pressured. He (Mika) was the one pressured," said Tanio, who received a thunderous applause from the crowd after the surprising triumph.

Stylish and nerveless, Tanio surged to an early 3-1 lead and then spent the rest of the match turning back Immonen's charge.

Earlier, reigning World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann tripped Filipino hero Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 7-4. Nicknamed the Hitman, Hohmann also beat Bustamante in the quarterfinals of the World Championship in Cardiff early this year.

The winner of this billiards extravaganza brought by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will pocket $20,000 (P1.1M), with the second placer winning $10,000 (P550M). The third and fourth finishers receive $5,000 (P275M) and $3,000 (P165M), respectively.

Nicknamed "The Iceman" for his cool and calculating plays, Immonen, who earlier started his campaign by beating Fil-Canadian star Alex Pagulayan, 7-5, silenced the hometown crowd when he took a 6-5 lead.

Tanio seemed doomed when his break went awry, but Immonen failed to capitalize. In a rare occasion, the 30-year-old now based in New York, committed three foul shots which enabled Tanio to tie the thrilling match, 6-6.

Immonen still had a good chance to prevent an upset but after a wonderful break, he missed the No. 2 ball, giving the curly-haired Filipino bet the chance to win.

Unbothered by all the attention, Tanio sank ball after ball, capping his memorable show by hitting a tough shot on the 8-ball which set up his victory.

"I think Mika was overconfident a little bit. He was watching me when i missed so many shots in practice," said Tanio, who won a silver medal in the 9-ball doubles two years ago in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

The 25-year-old Pagulayan, now based in Toronto, bounced back with a 7-6 win over Hohmann for a 1-1 card. Pagulayan finished second to Hohmann in the Cardiff event. He was also a runner-up in last year's US Open won by Germany's Ralf Soquet.

Spicing up the four-day event is the presence of Englishwoman Michaela Tabb, who drew a huge following with her movie-star looks. *With a report from Agnes Mogro*

2 Davao boys break marks

NM, Davao bets lead Palaro pack

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Records finally fell in the elementary boys' discus throw and triple jump yesterday even as host Northern Mindanao and Davao kept their show of strength with just a day left in the Palarong Pambansa at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Twelve-year-old Alejandro Lonzaga grunted and hurled the discus to 36.04 meters in winning the gold medal for Davao, in the process breaking the 34.79m record of Palson Madsali in Naga City last year.

But the more dramatic victory belonged to his teammate, 12-year-old Jeffrey Añosa, who bucked a bum stomach in shattering the elementary boys' triple jump with a leap of 12.47m.

The Grade 6 student from Saob Elementary School in Davao del Sur broke the 12.38m record set by Davao's Gerry Tamles last year in Naga City despite his lone attempt due to a painful stomach caused by eating a lot of peanuts before the event.

"I was really trying to go for the gold but I didn't expect to break the record," said Añosa after a visit to the MCC clinic.

Davao momentarily gained the upper hand in the elementary division with 28 gold medals, five ahead of Northern Mindanao.

But the hosts pulled away in the secondary level with 31 gold medals. Central Luzon was a far second with 18 golds.

Davao amassed three other victories in athletics through Regie Bayot in the secondary boys' 110m hurdles, sister April in the secondary girls' 110m hurdles and Racky Ramos in the elementary boys' 110m hurdles.

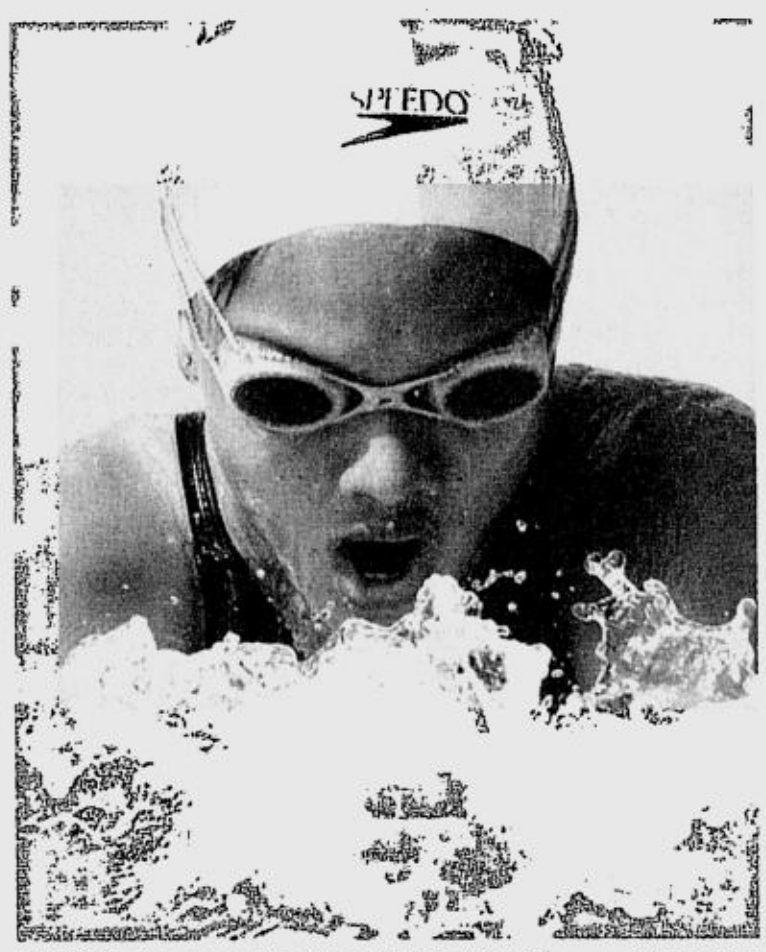
Cordillera Region unleashed its might in elementary taekwondo, winning three golds through Mark Lester Mendoza (5-foot to 5-foot-3 division), Mark Aldrin Rico (welterweight) and Dexter Cabradilla (lightweight).

David Yuson won in the 4-foot-3 to 4-foot-6 class, while Reneboy Baldelovar triumphed in the 5-foot-3 to 5-foot-6 class for Zamboanga Peninsula.

Central Luzon won two golds in secondary rhythmic gymnastics through Jennilyn Concepcion, who reigned in the hoop and ribbon events. Davao's Shiela Mae Guillermo topped the ball division.

Bicol continued to dominate secondary archery as Ruby Febres hit her third gold in the Olympic round. Bicol region also ran away with the team gold.

Monique Bacolod, Iligan's swim queen, emerged a top candidate as Palaro's best athlete after she won her fifth and sixth gold medals in the secondary 200m individual medley and 200m freestyle.



PALARO swim queen Bacolod captures a 6th gold. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gabito, Torres get going today

From page A25

ban (We're prepared although we don't know the strength of our rivals)," said the 22-year-old Torres, an education graduate from Far Eastern University.

Torres, who hails from Dumaguete City, said she's aiming to break her personal best of 6.40 meters. Bulauitan leaped 6.50m in the Manila 3As.

National coach Joseph Sy said he's hopeful either of the two would win a medal for the seven-man team sent here by Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, who's also the chef de mission of the Asian contingent in this event which drew 43 Asian and 54 African nations.

Go said Bulauitan and Torres are in fine form and should be able to give a good account of themselves, just like their male counterparts.

Seeing action tomorrow are John Lozada in the 800 meters and the 4x400m relay team of Ernie Candelario, Rodrigo Tanuan, Jimar Aing and Ronnie Marfil.

Isidro del Prado, once Asia's fastest man, is handling their training in preparation for the Vietnam SEA Games in December. *Roy Luarca*

Assumption cagers trip Archers

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption upset UAAP stalwart La Salle, 91-80, Monday night to reach the semifinals of the Unigames basketball tournament at the Orchard Golf and Country Club gym in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The combined output of Romel Dizon, Alex Bognot, Cliff Valerio, Jason Mendoza and Ron Mendiola matched the Archers' total score as the hot-shooting, Pampanga-based UA squad earned a showdown with UAAP champion Far Eastern for a title slot.

The FEU Tams needed an explosive fourth quarter to down the San Beda Lions, 73-61, as they sustained their bid for a second straight championship.

College of Saint Benilde and Adamson forged the other semifinal duel with contrasting victories over separate rivals.

Jay Sagad hit 28 points and the CSB Blazers proved steadier in the clutch to nip University of Mindanao, 81-79.

The Falcons displayed terrific firepower against University of the Philippines and routed the Maroons, 87-54.

UA found itself in the quarterfinals together with Adamson after University of the East forfeited all its games in bracket C for fielding ineligible players.

Why the PBA's often not worth watching

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE had never imagined the PBA would end up sinking, sick.

But you can bet Bobong Velez, the impresario who had lent the PBA its fiery, most glorious years, is now quietly saying a thank-you prayer.

Velez, no doubt, felt bad, very, very bad, when he lost the PBA television bidding war to NBN-4 last year.

The pro league was what you may call Mr. Bobong's bread and butter.

It had been a great part of his life.

So Mr. Bobong protested when this reporter told him that losing his stake in the PBA could be a blessing in disguise.

Maybe Mr. Velez thought this typist was just trying to be kind.

***

Well, the PBA may reject this, but it has long lost its romance with the basketball public.

No need for an actual diagnosis.

One look and you could confirm the league is reeling from assorted ills.

The greatest of these afflictions goes by the name of anemia.

This is vividly manifested in the dwindled attendance, the bare, lonely bleachers and the desolate, wintry conditions during regular games.

The pro league is also suffering from cancer of the pocket and losing money?

Well, in truth, the PBA league is not there to rake in fortunes for its member teams.

As in the original format, the PBA exists mainly to sell the respective products of its active clubs.

But unlike in its glory years, the PBA can no longer be ranked as the single most vital advertising force in the country.

***

To arrest the skid, lawyer Noli Eala, the irrepressible league commissioner, has been frantically seeking cures.

Foremost of these suggested solutions was the reformatting of the league.

The main goal was to be able to send a PBA selection not only to the Asian Games but to the biennial Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship which also serves as the Olympic qualifier in the region.

The idea is to regain lost respect and prestige in the Asian basketball front.

Mr. Eala is more than convinced that, after PBA stars are able to again make great, heroic stands in these Asian basketball battles, Pinoy fans would come back running to the coliseum.

You know, to rekindle romance with their idols.

***

That's a commendable move.

But, to repeat a previous observation, PBA pros, the way they are extensively exposed to the shallow commercial pursuits of their clubs, also come up soft, half-baked for these crucial, unforgiving Asian basketball wars.

In fact, one reason the PBA has continued to suffer from glaring anemia, the lack of passion at the gates, is the evident absence of playing fire among its pampered, overpaid local gladiators.

We've taken time out to seek popular opinion and former PBA devotees we had talked to were one in saying the league is no longer the same.

There's this valid observation that majority of PBA players have lost their original drive to compete and win at all costs.

Spectators notice that these players would often just go through the motion, preferring to play it safe to avoid undue harm—"Karamihan nanonood na lamang, takot masaktan."

With that cheap motto from the players, fans naturally have started to treat the league coldly.

If one win is not worth dying for, these spectators retort, then the league is not worth watching.

Yes, it had lost interest in Mr. Velez, but the pro league may have to turn to this tested impresario in these sick, lonely times.

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
*Sta. Lucia	7	5
*San Miguel	5	7
Alaska	4	7
FedEx	4	8
Purefoods	3	9
Group B		
*Coca-Cola	11	1
*Red Bull	9	2
*Talk 'N Text	7	5
*Ginebra	6	6
Shell	3	9
*-quarterfinalist		

Vengeful Tigers tackle Barakos

THE FEDEX Express unleash their healthy lineup against a hurting Alaska side today even as Coca-Cola and Red Bull tangle anew in what could be a preview of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference championship at the Philsports Arena.

The Coke Tigers try to avenge the only blight in their 11-1 record when they clash at 5 p.m. with the Red Bull Barakos, who own the league's second-best mark at 9-2.

Although the two Group B frontrunners are in the quarterfinals, a tight, bruising match is expected considering the pride and bragging rights that go with a win.

Hobbled by injuries, the Aces took a 90-78 beating from the San Miguel Beermen in Cebu City over the weekend and they are quite vulnerable in their 7:30 p.m. date with the Express. *June Navarro*

Rousing comeback

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

POPULAR horseowner Hermie Esguerra deserves our congratulations for the huge success of the comeback race of millionaire racehorse Wind Blown last Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

Ridden by celebrated jockey Jeffril Zarate, the seven-year-old Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in My Hair) streaked to an easy four-length victory in the Saddle and Clubs Special Race, covering the 1,500-meter distance in 1:34 flat before thousands of loyal supporters who cheered his triumphant return to big-time racing after an absence of six months.

"He's definitely back," said Esguerra of Wind Blown, considered as the best and winningest Philippine racehorse in contemporary history with total earnings of more than P18 million. Sunday's rousing victory for the two-time Horse of the Year (2001 and 2002) was his 34th win (22 stakes races) in 47 career starts, proof enough that Wind Blown is not out of place with the likes of superhorses Fair and Square, Silver Story, Sun Dancer, Strong Material, Real Top and much earlier, the legendary Sun God and Ilocos King. Wind Blown, bred by Sandy Javier and trained by Nelson Manalang, is set to join the Philtobo-Mitra Cup on Nov. 9 and the Marho (Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners) Breeders' Cup on Nov. 23, both at the Santa Ana Park.

Early this month, Wind Blown hurt his foot after stepping on a nail while training at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, original venue of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup, forcing owner Esguerra to scratch him from further participation at the SLLP.

A successful businessman-sportsman, Esguerra got hooked on horseracing not only to enjoy the sport but also to become a good horseowner. A generous winner, he has been regularly donating a big part of his winnings to worthy causes. " I've always prayed for guidance to make me a better person," he said.

***

BATTLE OF LEADERS. A truly interesting game awaits PBA diehards when the Coca-Cola Tigers (11-1) take on vastly improved Red Bull Barako (9-2) today at the Philsports Arena, with the odds stacked in Red Bull's favor. Red Bull beat Coca-Cola, 97-91, in their first meeting last Sept. 26, to hand the Tigers their lone setback in the Reinforced Conference. But Barako coach Yeng Guiao is not taking Coca-Cola lightly because it is still the strongest team in the field.

"Anything can happen in this unpredictable series," said the 43-year-old Guiao who steered the Photokina franchise of low-key George Chua to back-to-back Commissioner's Cup championships in 2001 and 2002.

Kobe rules self out of NBA opener

EL SEGUNDO, California—Kobe Bryant said he probably will miss the Lakers' season opener against Dallas on Tuesday, and again lashed out at Shaquille O'Neal.

BRYANT

"My knee is not strong enough to play yet. I know it. When it is, I will play," Bryant said on Monday. "I probably won't play tomorrow night."

Bryant, coming back from offseason knee surgery, and O'Neal traded barbs over the weekend. Neither spoke with reporters after Monday's practice, although Bryant did a telephone interview with ESPN.

The Lakers said the report is premature.

"Our understanding is that Kobe might not play because of the knee injury," Lakers director of public relations John Black said Monday night. "We think he probably will. That decision will be made tomorrow based on how Kobe is feeling and how his knee feels prior to the game."

Bryant said he didn't need O'Neal's advice on how to play hurt.

"I've played with IV's before, during and after games. I've played with a broken hand, a sprained ankle, a torn shoulder, a fractured tooth, a severed lip, and a knee the size of a softball," Bryant said. *AP*

● Solar Sports kicks off the 58th NBA season today with five straight days of double-headers "live" on Channel 29 (Skycable and Homecable) and over 350 provincial cable operators. Solar will also air games twice a week, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays on IBC-13, starting tomorrow with the Sacramento-Cleveland game.

In the bag for S'woods, Forest Hills

By Frank Cimatu

BAGUIO CITY—Tracy Locsin shot another even par 69 for 54 points yesterday as Manila Southwoods virtually clinched the premier Group I crown of the Camp John Hay-Asian Ladies Team Golf Championships here.

Southwoods took an unbeatable 24-point advantage over Aguinaldo with a two-day total of 347, with the National Golf Association of the Philippines in third place with 297.

But Matet Salivio, a 16-year-old Aguinaldo mainstay, grabbed the day's limelight by firing an eagle-aided 68 for 55 points.

"I had a good round. My tee shots were good, my putting was great except for the last three holes," said the event's youngest entry, who pitched in for eagle from 40 feet on the eighth after birdies on Nos. 2 and 7.

Forest Hills got 43 points from Tess Stuab and Masa Tsai as the Antipolo-based team also clinched the Group 2 title with still a day to go by taking a 30-point lead over Valley.

Despite the one-sided competition, NGAP director Alice Andrada said they're happy the girls are enjoying themselves.

SPORTSWATCH

Yakult run stakes P180,000

A CASH pot of P180,000 is at stake when the Yakult 10 Miler kicks off on Nov. 9 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City. The event, now in its 15th year, is being held as part of Yakult Philippines, Inc.'s 25th year anniversary in the country. The winners of the men's and women's races will each receive P7,000, with the second placers getting P3,000. Third to fifth placers will take home P2,000, P1,000 and P500, respectively. Medals await the winners of the side events, the 5-K fun run and the 3-K kiddie race for children six to nine and 10 to 13 years old. The top three finishers in both the men's and women's 10 Mile race, and the winner of the 5-K run will each receive shoes from Nike, which will set up a tent to determine the best shoes for those who will have their stride measured. Registration is ongoing at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at No. 51 Annapolis St., in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee for the centerpiece 10-mile event and the 5K fun run is P100 per runner while for the 3K run is P50. Last day of registration is on Nov. 4.

Cebu fives best of Milo BEST

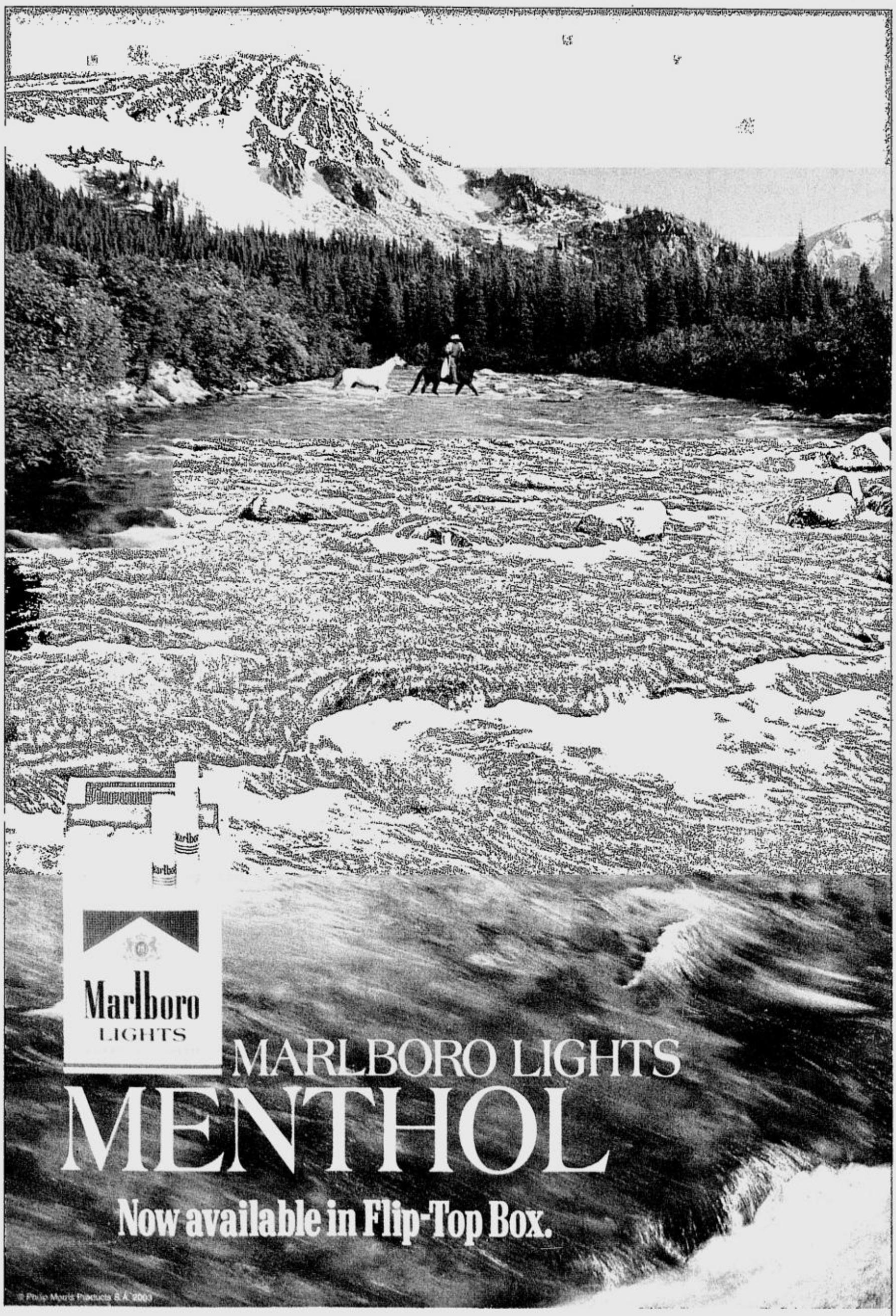
ILOILO CITY—Cebu teams University of San Carlos and University of Cebu crushed their respective rivals to rule the Milo Best Visayas basketball finals here. The USC boys bagged the SBP title by beating Sta. Maria, 57-33, after streaking to a 31-12 halftime advantage. Then UC crushed another Santa Maria squad, 83-66, to bag the Pasarelle crown. Earl Conde, Oliver Saballa, Bryan Negapatan and Dominic Nazareno starred for USC, while Airland Talda, Rommel Ryan Lucero and Jan sizzled for UC. The Cebuanos advanced to the national finals where they will meet champions from Mindanao, Luzon and National Capital Region.

Agusan booters in hot start

BUTUAN CITY—Defending champion Agusan National High banked on Stephen Permanez's seven goals to crush Normissist Pilot High, 12-0, last Sunday at the start of the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament here. Nasipit National Vocational High and Butuan City School of Arts and Trade split their matches against separate rivals in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Phils. Nasipit blanked Buenavista National High, 2-0, but lost to Libertad High, 2-5, while DOST clobbered Urios High, 5-1 but fell to Sunbeam 0-9.

Ucap Stag derby final today

FIFTY-EIGHT matches spice up the 3rd UCAP 7-Stag Derby championship round today at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City. Newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, fresh off his victory in the NCA Stagfighter championship, are gunning for the Ucap Stagfighter award. Also seeking the title are Tony Lasala, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Patrick Antonio, Dr. Ayong Lorenzo, Anthony Lim, Sonny Lagon, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Louie Cua, Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar. The Ucap Stagfighter winner will receive P300,000 plus a trophy, said Ucap president Raymond Velayo. From a field of 39, only two entries remained unbeaten after last Monday's 3-stag round. These are Amis Master (Raymond Velayo) and BRPE Sagupaan Lucky Dec. 20 (Boy Royo). Derby hosts are Jet Fernando of Pampanga and Alex Tang of Bicol. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.



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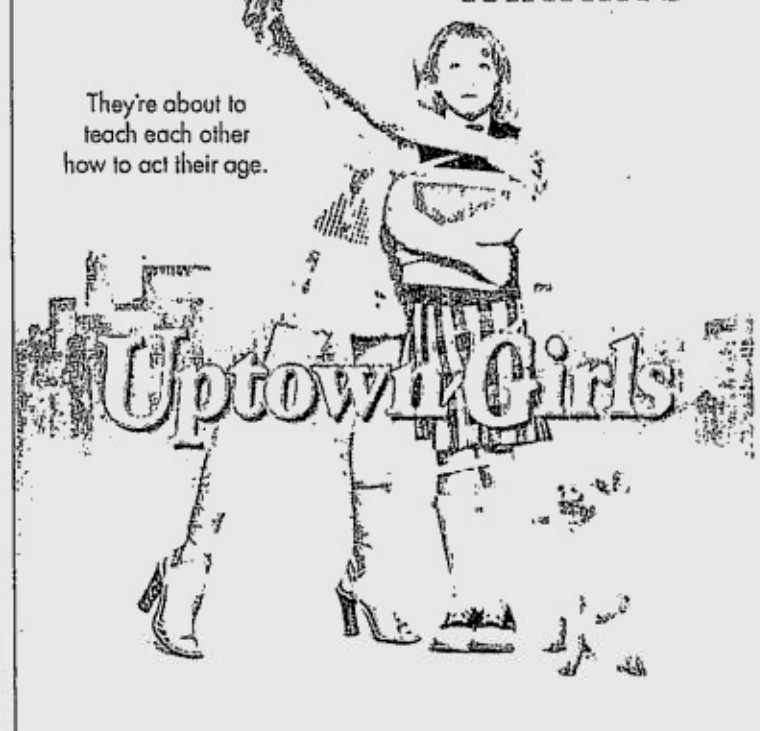

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DOLBY DIGITAL

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
THE RUNDOWN
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2
MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
R13

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OCT 29 & 30 "ECLECTIC" NYOY VOLANTE 8:00PM
OCT 30 NINA SOLE SIREN 9:00PM

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GMA urging Vi to run for gov, says star's brother-in-law

TANAUAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo wants no less than Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos to be her "deodorant."

During the oath-taking of the new members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party held in this Batangas city last Monday, Vilma's brother-in-law Ricky Recto revealed that the President and some other Malacanang officials were bent on persuading the award-winning movie actress to run for governor of this province.

Recto claimed that the President's political advisers thought Santos could be the perfect tool to "deodorize" the President's image in time for her campaign for next year's presidential election.

He said Vilma had told him and his older brother—her husband Sen. Ralph Recto—about the President's persistent appeal for the actress to run under the Lakas-CMD banner.

"Now they (Malacanang) badly need Vilma to help (President Macapagal-)Arroyo bring her ratings up," Recto told reporters in this city. "She wants to use Vilma as her deodorant."

He said having the actress beside her during the campaign here would be a big boost to the President's popularity, especially among the 365,000 voters in this province.

Former justice secretary Hernani Perez has signified his intention to run for Batangas governor.

But Recto claimed that Vilma would never yield to the President. He said his senator brother had already told Vilma to "let my brother run for governor."

The younger Recto launched his gubernatorial campaign early this month. He claimed he has the backing of the municipal mayors from three of the four congressional districts of Batangas.

"Ralph has already spoken with Vilma about the matter," said Recto. "They know my capability as a public servant. Besides, Vilma has already stated her plans for next year."

He said Vilma is "51 percent sure to run for a third term as mayor, 48 percent sure to just concentrate on show biz and one percent sure to run for governor."

"That means she's 99 percent sure of not running for governor," said Recto, who had served twice as Batangas vice governor from 1995-2001.

TITLE/ A30

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MY FIRST ROMANCE
B	MAPUPULANG LABI
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MY FIRST ROMANCE	1 IDENTITY	1 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 IDENTITY 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	THX 1 UPTOWN GIRLS
2 UPTOWN GIRLS	2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05 11:15	2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 PHONE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE RUNDOWN 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30	2 UPTOWN GIRLS 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 HEAD OF THE STATE 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	3 IDENTITY
4 THE RUNDOWN	4 HEAD OF THE STATE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE RUNDOWN 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00	4 THE SPY
	5 MY FIRST ROMANCE	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00 11:20	5 THE RUNDOWN
	6 UPTOWN GIRLS			
	7 THE SPY			

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Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	MAPUPULANG LABI
Ali 3	THE SPY
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	IDENTITY
Ali 6	UPTOWN GIRL
Ali 7	MY FIRST TOMANCE

ARANETA COLISEUM

OCT 29	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
NOV 2	PBA: SHELL VS. PUREFOODS
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE RUNDOWN PG13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	UPTOWN GIRLS PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	THE SPY PG13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30
MY FIRST ROMANCE GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	IDENTITY R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE SPY
2 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 (SDDS)	IDENTITY
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
9	THE PHONE
10	FREAKY FRIDAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana Cinema 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	THE RUNDOWN
3	MAPUPULANG LABI

stармall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	BELPHEGOR
3	MAPUPULANG LABI
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE RUNDOWN
5	BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS
www.clickthecity.com.ph str
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	MAPUPULANG LABI
3	THE RUNDOWN
4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
5	THE SPY
6	IDENTITY

Mstar
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	THE TREK
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MEDALLION
2	FREAKY FRIDAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	
3	
4	RESERVE
	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	MAPUPULANG LABI
6	MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 (DTS)	THE SPY
8 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY)	IDENTITY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3761

1	MAPUPULANG LABI
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
5	UTANG NG AMA
6 (DOLBY)	IDENTITY
7 (DTS)	BELPHEGOR
8	BUGBOG SARADO
9	KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (SDDS)	BELPHEGOR
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY)	UTANG NG AMA
5	MAPUPULANG LABI

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS)	VISIBLE SECRET-2
4	MAPUPULANG LABI
5 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TELE OF EROTICK
Lords	MAPUPULANG LABI
Jennet	RESERVE

Marriott Cafe
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	IDENTITY
3	MAPUPULANG LABI
4	THE PHONE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	MAPUPULANG LUPA
3	RESERVE
4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
5	THE SPY

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MAPUPULANG LUPA
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX-7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MAPUPULANG LUPA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE SPY
4 (SDDS)	THE RUNDOWN
5 (DTS)	IDENTITY
6	UPTOWN GIRLS
7	MY FIRST ROMANCE

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	KATAS
2	FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BELPHEGOR
2 (DTS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4	AMERICAN PSYCHO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PSYCHO
4	BELPHEGOR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MEDALLION
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	BELPHEGOR
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	KIKAY
3 (DTS)	PRIVATE LESSON-2
4	MAPUPULANG LABI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	BELPHEGOR
4	UTANG NG AMA
5	AMERICAN PSYCHO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	IDENTITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	MATCHSTICK MEN
2	UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
4	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	THE RUNDOWN
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE
4	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (SDDS)	UTANG NG AMA
4	BUGBOG SARADO

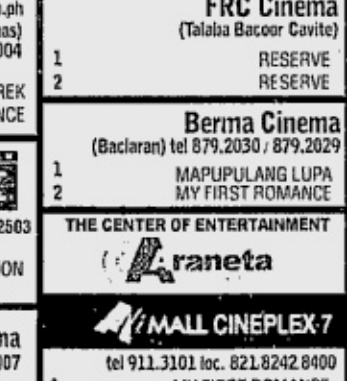
Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	UTANG NG AMA
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

Festival Supermall Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice



NOW SHOWING

Criminal statues, allergies to diseases and other boob-tube booboos

HOST: I've always admired your self-confidence. Where does it come from? What's your secret?

Guest: No secret, I just have so much believe in me!

(The way you're talking, you'll need it!)

***

Host: I hear you've decided to go solo? How does your band feel about your decision?

Guest: *Tanggap naman nila.* It's ordinary already with bands, after they fame, they will desert each other to be soloist!

(*Ay*, after they fame!)

***

Host: We have an exciting show for you today!

Co-host: Yes! Excited *na nga ako, e*!

Host: Tell them about our special features and surprises today.

Co-host: OK! Our show's topic today is about healthy!

(And you're supposed to be a TV host?!)

***

Host: What can you say about your top critic and the charges he has raised against you in the media?

Guest: It's all propaganda for political purposes. What he should do is go to court immediately and fire the charges.

(*Ay*, fire the charges!)

***

Host: So, you deny the charges?

Guest: Of course. I am 100-percent sure, I did not break any criminal statues.

(*Ay*, criminal statues!)

***

Host: What do you like most about living in the Philippines?

Guest: I love the fruits!

Host: What are your favorite fruits that can be found here?

Guest: Oh, lanzones, papaya, rhumbatan—

(And don't forget the mango-tango!)

***

Host: So, you love eating fruits?

Guest: *Sa totoo lang, ang* diet *ko ngayon, puro prutas lang.*

Host: Only fruits? Really?

Guest: Yes. If possible, *wala nang* mga dinners!

(Duh!)

***

Host: When will your new movie be shown?

Guest: It will show this coming next month.

(When *nga ba raw*?)

***

Host: How is our telephone survey coming along?

Co-host: Great, we have so many callers!

Host: *Mas marami bang tumawag*, male—or female?

Co-host: Equivalent!

(Wow, equivalent!)

***

Host: So, to sum up our discussion on medical tips—

Co-host: Consult your doctor, if you have allergies to diseases!

(Allergies to diseases? What *are* you talking about?!)

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In time for Halloween

JUST in time for the spookfest that's Halloween, some scary movies are being shown in town to give viewers the heebie-jeebies:

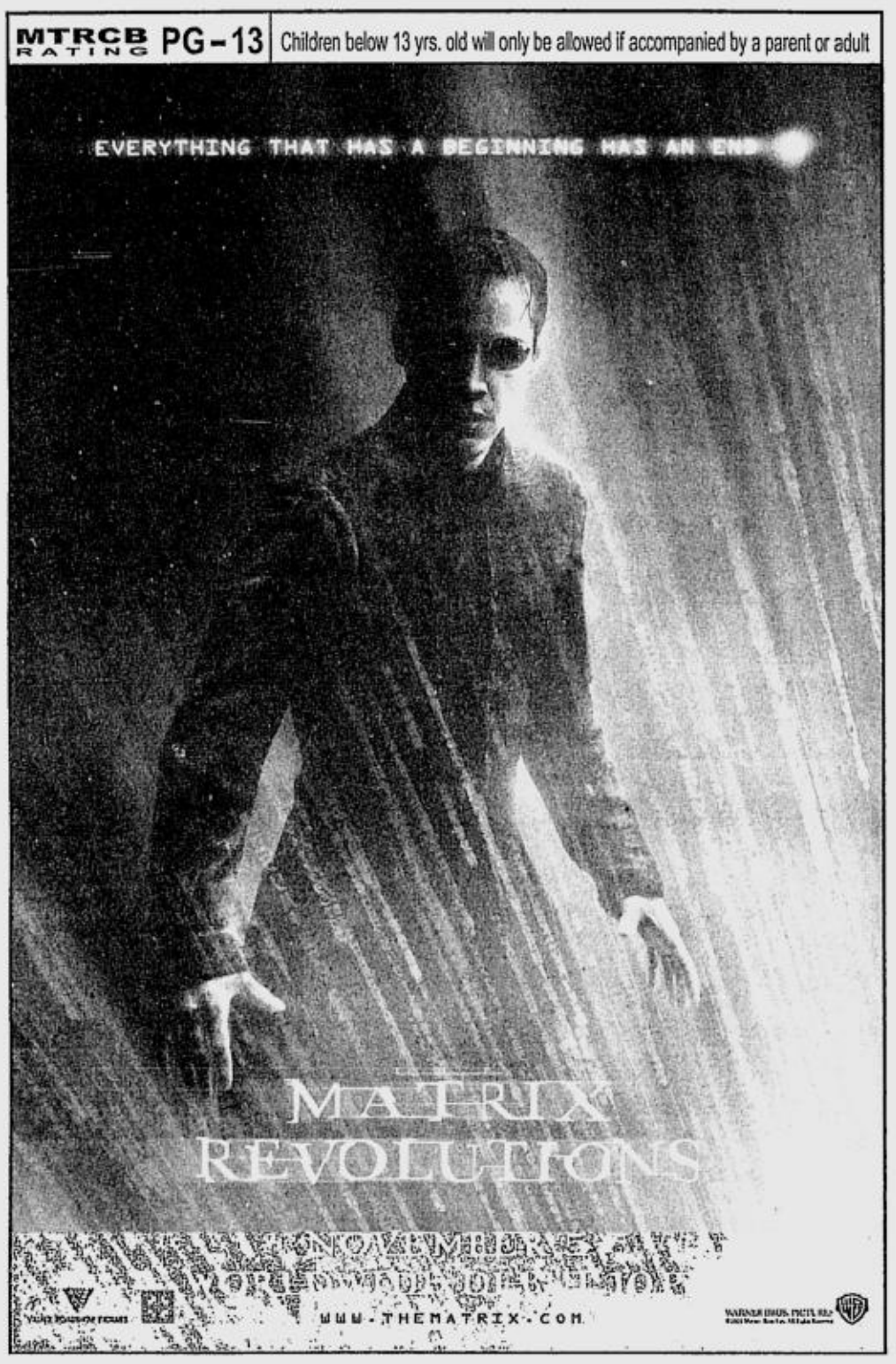
Mike Figgis ("Leaving Las vegas") has come up with the atmospheric suspense-thriller, "Cold Creek Manor," starring **Dennis Quaid** and **Sharon Stone**. The lead actors play a New York City couple who decide to move to the country to provide their children with a safer life. Ironically, they get more than they bargained for when they purchase Cold Creek Manor, a huge, crumbling house that has a murky, dangerous past.

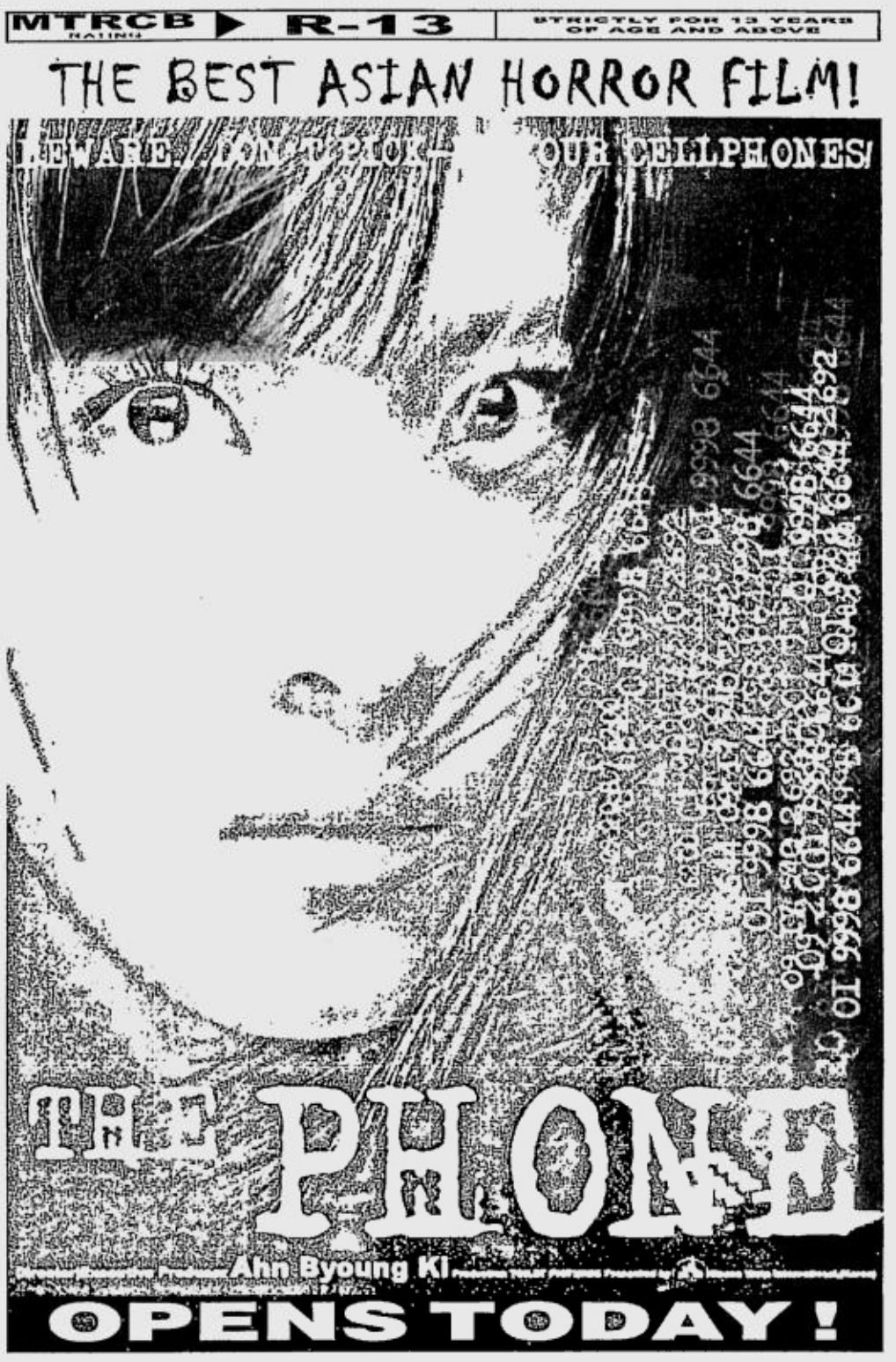
That past shows up at their front door in the person of an ex-convict (**Steven Dorff**) who lost the house when he was jailed. Quaid's efforts to keep him off the property anger the bitter psychopath, triggering an assault that endangers the couple and their children.

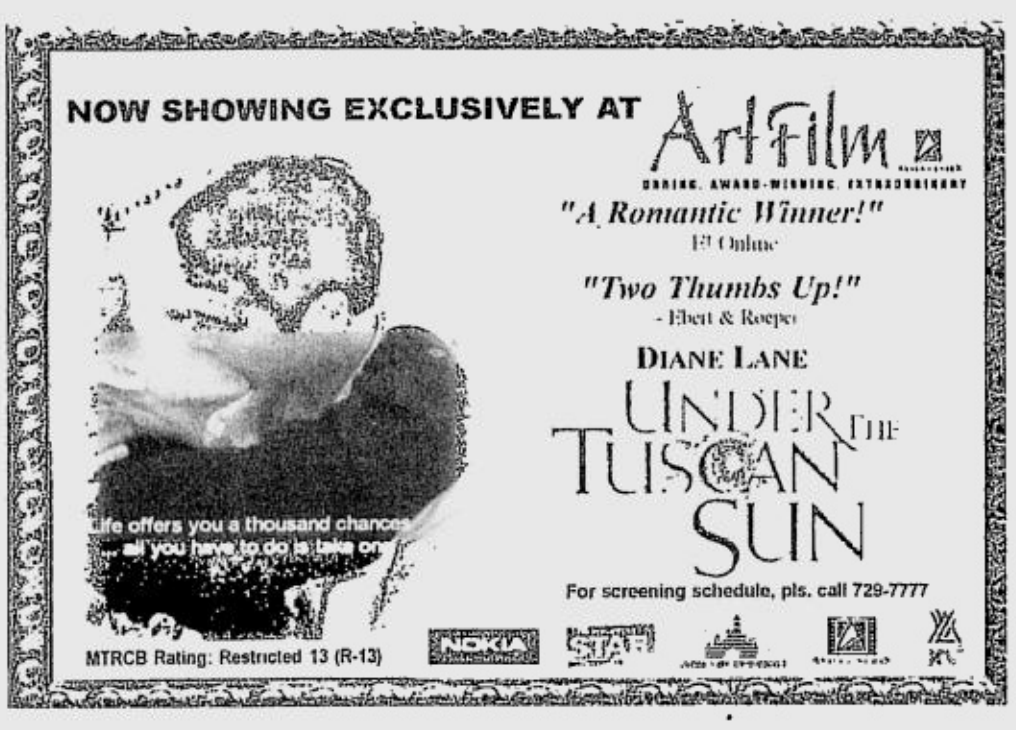
Another spooky house is the setting for the horror-comedy "The Haunted Mansion," with **Eddie Murphy** leading the stellar cast. Inspired by the popular Disneyland theme park ride, the movie uses visual and special effects to add to its horror and comedy quotients.

Murphy plays a realtor who checks out the mansion, which is located on a remote bayou. A mysterious thunderstorm strands Murphy and his wife in the old mansion, and they get spooked by its residents, both seen and unseen. The realtor freaks out even more when he discovers his wife's unexpected connections to its haunted past.

"The Haunted Mansion" is directed by **Rob Minkoff**, who also megged "The Lion King" and "Stuart Little."







DID YOU KNOW...

Actor **Ricardo Cepeda** was seen shopping at Rustan's Supermarket in Makati City last Sunday afternoon. He was in a black t-shirt and denims, and he was alone. Where could wife **Snooky** be? Snooky earlier admitted to the media that their marriage was shaky and no longer exciting, but they continued to be seen often together in public.

MetroPop finalists named

From page A31

one of them."

Says Close Up assistant brand manager Angela Reyes, "We are so elated that the message that we are putting across—that of bridging the gap—is being set to music. We are one in saluting the music excellence of the Filipinos."

The MetroPop Song Festival night will be on Nov. 29 at the AFP Theater in Quezon City.

GMA urging Vi to run...

From page A29

Aside from Recto and Perez, also reportedly planning to run for governor are businessman and Lakas member Dennis Hernandez and Mayor Arman Sanchez of Sto. Tomas town.

"If (the President) could convince Vilma, then the noise over the gubernatorial slate would end," said Rector. "If *Ate* Vi would run, I bet nobody would (try to contest her). Then we'd all be silent." Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PBA HONEYSHOTS

They can dance during halftime, but they can't date the players

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

WHEN Canadian-American physical education teacher James Naismith introduced basketball in early December 1891 at the School for Christian Workers (now Springfield College) in Springfield, Massachusetts, he probably didn't foresee it would become one of the most popular and profitable sports of all time.

According to the Encarta Encyclopedia, Naismith was instructed by the PE department's chair, Luther Gulick, to "invent a new game to entertain the school's athletes during the winter season."

Basketball has never been as entertaining to both players and fans as it is today. And thanks to the wonders of television, the games have become more exciting and comprehensible.

Missed a three-pointer that just concluded a tight contest? Wait a sec and the playback will show you what happened. The slo-mo, with the commentators' analysis, will later explain to the viewer how the play transpired, step-by-step.

The players themselves have become media celebrities, endorsing different products and appearing as guests on TV shows, even in movies. Some conquer show business and a few are elected to public office.

The advent of malls and cable TV, however, gave people more entertainment options.

Ambassadors

"Definitely, basketball has suffered," Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala admits. "That's why we have implemented a whole marketing program for the PBA to be attractive again to the fans. The trend in sports leagues around the world, like the NBA (National Basketball Association in the United States), is having their own cheerleaders."

Thus the birth of the PBA Honeyshots, nine pretty, pert girls who will not only dance during halftime breaks and in between games but will also act as ambassadors of goodwill for the country's 28-year-old pro league.

Honeyshot, by the way, is a term used in sports TV, referring to a camera shot of a face in the audience. It is also the name of an all-female trio from the San Francisco Bay area that plays hard rock and heavy metal music.

Not indecent

And that's how different the PBA Honeyshots would be from popular girl groups like the Sexbomb Dancers and the Viva Hot Babes. "But I hope that the Honeyshots will be as successful in promoting the league as the Sexbomb dancers are in promoting 'Eat Bulaga' and their records."

Eala points out that the PBA is a "family entertainment organization."

"Kids watch the games so the girls should dress appropriately," he says. "I think they'll be very appealing but not indecent-looking."

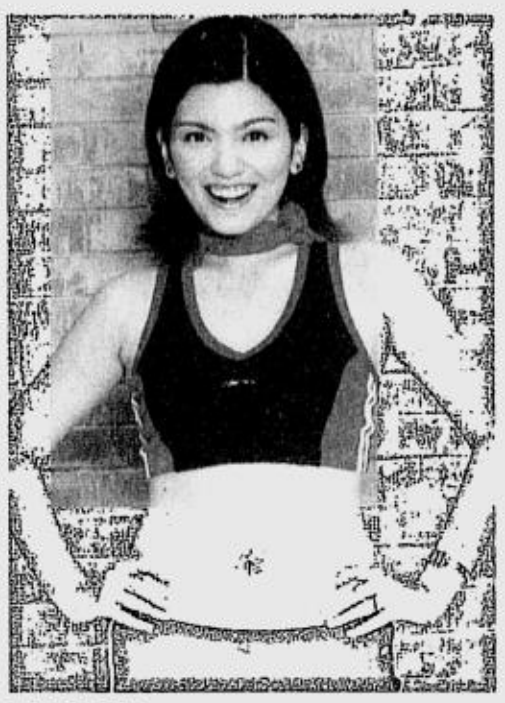
The nine Honeyshots girls are Rosemarie Arenas, Ma. Elizabeth Caoagdan, Ria Loraine Garcia, Ma. Fatima Hermosa, Imelda Palma, Theresa Paron, Joe Ann Rodriguez, Rustum Soliman IV and Rustum Soliman VI. They wear regular sports get-ups and exude youthful exuberance.

Their first performance was last Oct. 19.

Show biz dreams

Rosemarie (or G), Imelda (Dang), Joe and sisters Tami and Yami Soliman are professional dancers. Beth, Ria, Ma. Fatima (Aima), and Theresa (Joy) had been members of their school dance troupes and cheering squads.

Beth had a chance to join another all-girl dance group. "But I wasn't ready then," says the 19-year-old mestiza, who professes to be a fan of the PBA.



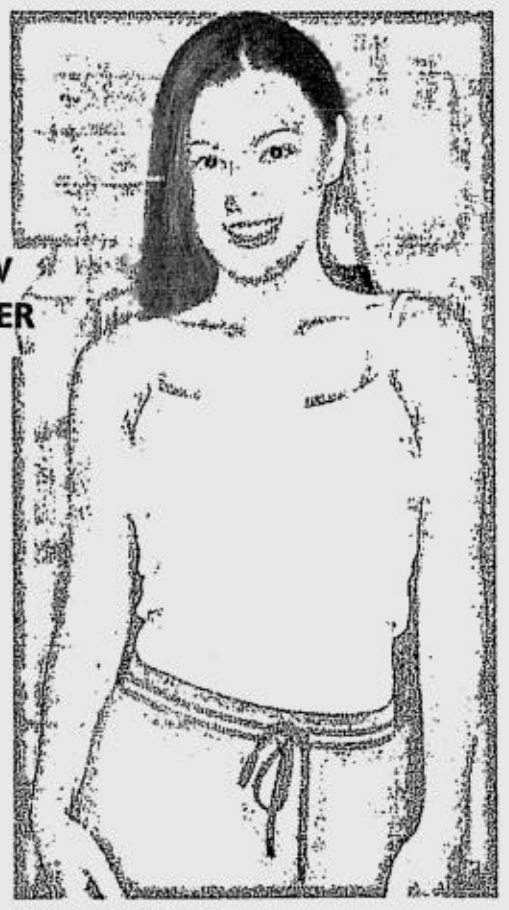
THERESA Paron

Ria admits she wants to be in show biz. She's had small roles in the soaps "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" and "Sana'y Wala nang Wakas," and plans to attend another acting workshop. She also sings in a La Salle-based band.

The PBA is open to the girls' other show biz plans, as long as they don't appear in bold movies, says Eala.

There's another restriction: The cheerleaders can't date the players, "because we should cheer not for any one team but for all the teams," explains Ria.

SHOW STOPPER



MA. ELIZABETH Caoagdan

RIA LORAINE Garcia

DID YOU KNOW...

• In a recent staging of "Showgirls" in a southern province, **Belinda Bright**, one of the many sexy stars in the show, was ready to go all the way when it came her turn to perform on stage. She was intent on taking off her bikini top and bottom during her number and gyrate in only glittering body paint over her breast and Swarovski crystals on her nether parts. At the last minute, however, the people behind the controversial show decided that Belinda should leave her bikini bottom on. She did.

MetroPop finalists named

AN EVEN dozen has been selected from 775 entries from all over the country to be the finalists in the 2003 MetroPop Song Festival.

Marla Teopaco, head of the festival committee and vice president for events management of GMA Marketing and Production Inc. revealed this as she announced the 12 finalists.

The finalists are "Be There," by composer-lyricist Trina Belamide; "Beside You," by composer Dan Gil and lyricist Ryan Argamento; "Buti Na Lang," by Jonathan Manalo; "Malayo Man, Malapit Din," Bayang Barrios;

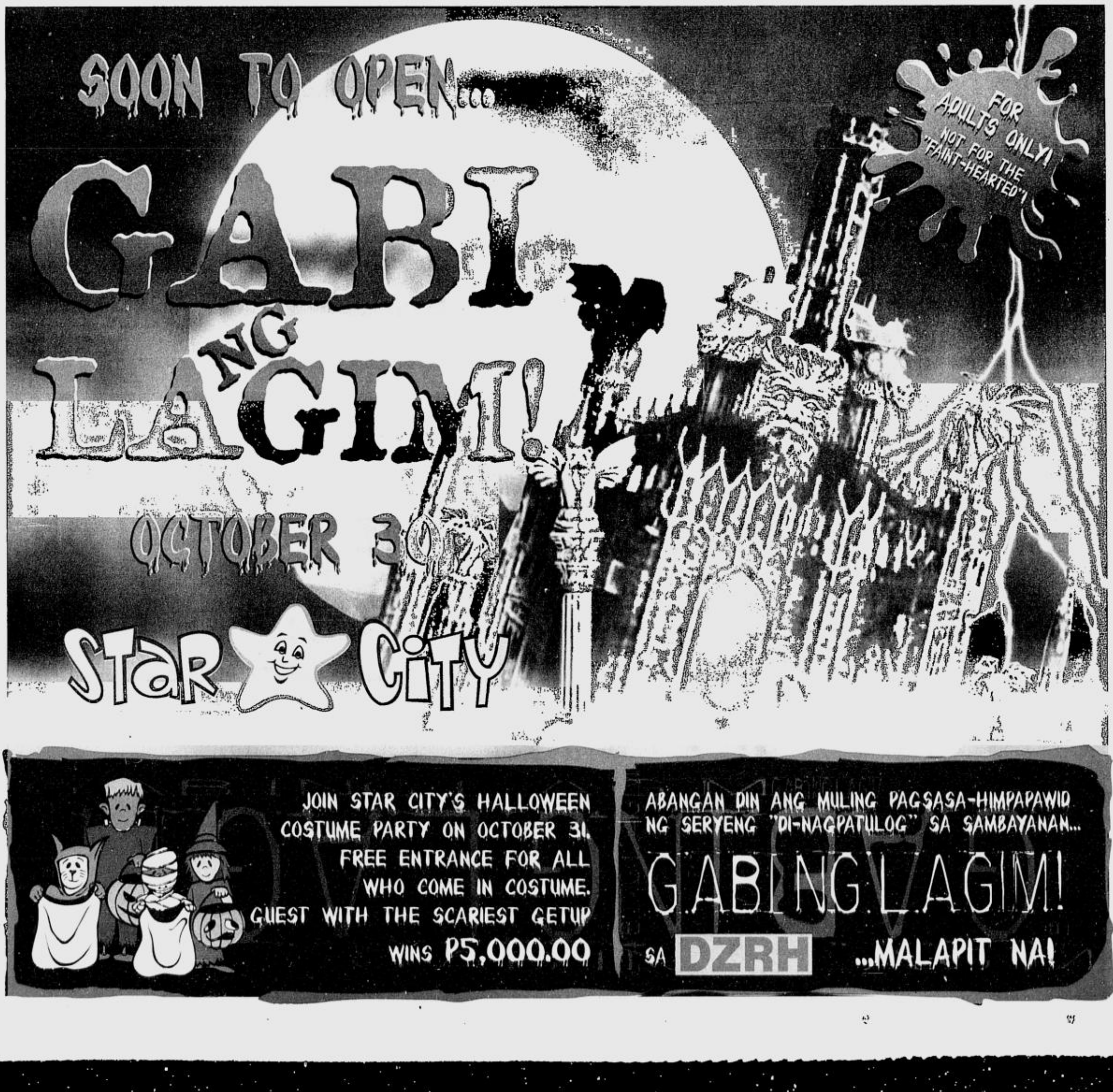
"'Pag ang Puso ang Nagsabi," Soc Villanueva; "Parang," Jim Paredes; "Pretend That I Don't Love You," Mike Villegas; "Tahan Na," Romeo Velasco; "Tulay," Paul Galang;

"When You Smile," Gino Torres; "With a Smile," Mon Espia; and "You're All That I Live For," Vehnee Saturno.

This year, the MetroPop Song Festival is presented by GMA 7 and Close Up.

"Close Up not only believes in the project, it is involved in it, too," says Teopaco. "There are very few products that support the music industry, and Close Up is

METROPOP/ A30



E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

MOORE, Nov. 14

BISHOP, Nov. 22

CAREY, Nov. 16

McKNIGHT, Dec. 5, 6

ASHANTI, Dec. 15

GARY V, Nov. 28, 29, is undaunted

Foreign acts to glut Manila in next 2 months

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

THE FOREIGN invasion of Philippine entertainment continues, with at least eight foreign acts scheduled to perform in Manila in November and December.

Earlier this year, foreign artists were coming to Manila in trickles, with some even canceling the Philippines from their itineraries, thanks to security threats brought about by bombing incidents or terrorist scare.

But after the Manila visit of US President George W. Bush in Manila last Oct. 18, the country is suddenly being swamped with foreign acts.

Leading them is Mariah Carey, who earlier called off her six-city "Charmbracelet" Asian tour which included Manila. The latest reports said she would be coming to Manila, after all.

But even is she would not, there are still at least seven other foreign acts—big ones as well as new or unheard-of ones—who are expected to storm the local concert scene and grab their share of audience and the local music fans' hard-earned pesos.

Mandy's first time

American pop princess Mandy Moore will perform on Nov. 14 in MTV Philippines' "Music Summit," a benefit show at The Fort Open Field.

It will be the first time the 19-year-old Moore, who is also a Penshoppe image model, is performing in Manila. She is also set to promote her latest album, "Coverage." Proceeds from the "Music Summit" will go to MTV's AIDS an IIV awareness campaign.

MTV Philippines is also the producer of Carey's concert, with Tommy Hilfiger Watches.

After Moore comes singer-songwriter Stephen Bishop, who will do a concert on Nov. 22 at the Aliw Theater at the Star City Complex, with Lani Misalucha and South Border as special guests. Bishop is the voice behind such timeless hits as "It Might Be You," "On and On," "One More Night" and "Send a Little Love My Way."

Nov. 29 will see the two other former F4 heartthrobs, Jerry Yan and Vic Zhou, joining ABS-CBN artists in the network's "Happy 50 TV" concert at The Fort Open Field. The show will also feature the ASOS duo—sisters Barbie and Dee Xu. They will be joined by Ai-Ai de las Alas, Vina Morales, Kristine Hermosa and The Hunks—Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Bernard Palanca, Carlos Agassi and Piolo Pascual.

Nth time visitor

R & B singer Brian McKnight is returning to Manila for the nth time and performing at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 5 and 6, with Bituin Escalante and Sarah Geronimo as special guests. The show is produced by Viva Concerts, which also brought McKnight for a sold-out Valentine concert with Regine Velasquez last year, also at the Big Dome.

Also much-awaited by their local fans is the rap-metal group Limp Bizkit, which is scheduled to perform on Dec. 7 and 8 at the Philsports (former Ultra) football field, as part of the promo tour for their album, "Results May Vary."

R & B and hip-hop princess Ashanti will rule at The Fort Open Field on Dec. 15.

Lesser-known foreign artists are also coming. Croatian classical pop-fusion artist Maksim Mrvica will be at the Greenbelt 3 Park on Nov. 8 for the Philippine promo tour of his album, "The Piano Player," from EMI Philippines. Maksim's show is presented by Ayala Center and Globe Handy Phone, with Yamaha.

Sax player Courtney Pine will be seen in the jazz concert, "Jazz in Time," on Nov. 15 at the Crossroads Convenarium in Quezon City. Pine plays the tenor and soprano sax as well as the flute. He is the co-founder of the group Jazz Warriors, which landed on the UK's Top 40 charts with their first album, "Journey to the Urge Within." Courtney has a new solo album, "Devotion."

To share the stage with Pine are local artists Mon David, Tots Tolentino, Bo Razon, Jay Cayuca, Ugoy-Ugoy Band, Bituin Escalante, Chad Borja, Lyn Sherman, Cookie Chua, Noel Cabangon, Colby de la Calzada.

> 'I believe the arrival of President Bush triggered all these performances of the foreign artists,' says Gary V, undaunted by the threat to his own two-night concert

Gary V ready

But despite the foreign act blitz, pop idol Gary Valenciano is unruffled, even when he has his own concert at Araneta Coliseum, "XXtreme," on Nov. 28 and 29, to mark his 20th year in the business. The second night of his concert runs right smack into F2's performance.

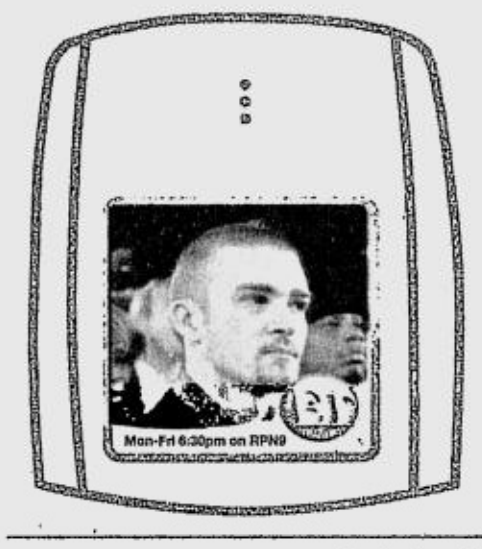
"I believe the arrival of President Bush triggered all these performances of the foreign artists," Gary told INQUIRER Entertainment. "A month before Bush came here, there was hardly any confirmation or even an announcement of the concerts of these foreign artists. But when they probably saw that it was safe to come to the Philippines after all following the Bush visit, they all said yes, they were coming to perform in Manila."

But Gary is worried about the competition for ticket sales. Most of the artists have their concert tickets priced starting at P5,000, which is not totally competitive, he notes.

The most expensive concert ticket for his own concert is only P1,200.

The foreign act invasion actually started last month, with Canada's Michael Bublé at the PICC, Latin music icon Sergio Mendes at Aliw Theater, singer-pianist David Benoit at the CCP, and former F4 members Vaness Wu and Ken Zhu, with sisters Barbie and Dee Xu at the Philsports football field.

The Cheekee Girls, Plumb and Jim Brickman also came to Manila to promote their new albums.



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Who's afraid of Mariah Carey? Not Regine

THE COMING of foreign artists to Manila in the last part of 2003 is not keeping Regine Velasquez from going on with her own last quarter performances.

On Oct. 30, Regine performs in "Voices," a concert at the Mandarin Oriental, also featuring The Tux and Akafellas as her special guests.

Regine sings with former boyfriend Ariel Rivera in his latest single, a remake of the pop classic "Tell Me," from Ariel's latest album, "In My Life," from BMG Records.

On Nov. 14, Regine starts "Songbird Sings Streisand," her latest concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt. Her repertoire here include "People," "My Man," "Cry Me a River," "The Way We Were," "Papa Can You Hear Me," "Piece of Sky," "As If We Never Said Goodbye," "Evergreen," "Memory" and many more.

The Onstage series from Maxi-Media is scheduled on all Fridays and Saturdays of November. Tickets to "Songbird Sings Streisand" are available at Maxi-Media (551-7777), Ticketworld (891-5610), Tower Records and Onstage Greenbelt Ticketron.

December will have Regine promoting her movie, "Captain Barbell," an official entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival. She stars as the Pinoy superhero's love interest, with Bong Revilla as Captain Barbell and Rufa Mae Quinto as his arch-enemy.

Regine's career is managed by Aria Productions headed by her sister Cacai.

For inquiries, call 426-7531 or 926-7868.

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Gov't to issue ₱20B worth of retail bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is set to sell as much as P20 billion worth of three- or five-year retail treasury bonds next month to beef up its cash position in preparation for the coming months when borrowing is expected to become more expensive due to political jitters.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the Bureau of Treasury had approved the issuance of at least P3 billion to P5 billion worth of RTBs in November. He said he was expecting that demand for the small-denominated debt papers would remain brisk. The previous RTB issues were several times oversubscribed.

"This time we want to put a cap of P20 billion," he said.

To be sold in cuts of P5,000, a retail investor can buy P5,000 to P2 million worth of the risk-free bonds.

The returns will be paid every quarter. Like any other government debt paper, the RTBs are subject to a final withholding tax and documentary stamp tax.

The three-year RTBs sold in July offered a yield of 9.5 percent while the five-year bonds carried a coupon rate of 10.375 percent.

In July, the government raised P74.3 billion from the sale of three-and-five-year retail bonds when it had intended to sell only P10 billion worth of these bonds.

In June 2002, the government raised P63 billion from retail investors from the sale of similar bond papers. Of the various government debt papers, only the RTBs are accessible to small investors.

The treasurer said the central bank's Monetary Board had already approved in principle the issuance of RTBs.

Edeza said the government's cash position had more than doubled to P70 billion this week from P30 billion last month following the sale of $1.05 billion worth of long-term global bonds on Oct. 16.

"During periods of uncertainty, we have to be prepared. The funds we have raised from the foreign market recently were not for this year so we have to continue beefing up our position especially given the pressure on the interest rates," said the treasurer.

The rate on two-year bonds rose by 12.5 basis points to 8.75 percent yesterday. The government raised P3 billion from the sale of two-year debt papers yesterday although offers reached P10.35 billion indicating substantial interest on the papers.

Edeza defended the Treasury's decision to continue accepting higher bids for government securities despite the government's strong cash position.

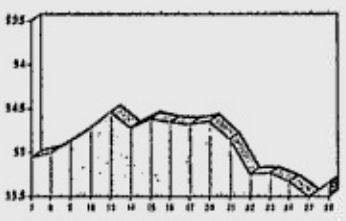
"When there is uncertainty, interest rates go up. We have to take out the pressure on the market so we accept bids that we be lieve are reasonable," said the treasurer. Yields on treasury bills rose across all three tenors last

GOV'T/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER



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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2003

¥ 108.28 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2003

GOLD: **$384.50-385.00**

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 28, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks end shade up

SHARES ended mildly higher yesterday, helped by bargain-hunting in top phone firms Globe Telecom and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) on expectations of good third-quarter profits.

A recovery by midday in the peso after it hit a fresh two-month low of 55.59 to the dollar in early morning trade also lifted market sentiment, traders said.

The Philippine stock index of 30 blue chip firms edged up 4.87 points or 0.36 percent to end at 1,363.04 points.

The index has climbed 33.84 percent so far this year.

"The peso's rebound is a factor but the focus is on corporate earnings," said Allan Araullo, vice president at Regina Capital Development Corp.

He said the market was likely to be range-bound in the coming sessions after the index failed to breach key resistance at the 1,380 to 1,400 level in previous sessions.

The peso strengthened towards noon, with quotes at 55.375 to the dollar before the market closed for the noon break against its previous onshore close of 55.50.

The central bank said the peso's weakness was due to month-end corporate requirements and short-covering by banks in light of political worries.

Traders said the currency market had been unnerved by a move by a group of lawmakers to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide on allegations he misused public funds.

Market turnover gained slightly to P378.12 million against Monday's P343.57 million. Losers and gainers were in equilibrium at 25 issues each while 35 issues were unchanged.

Globe Telecom, accounting for about 30 percent of total turnover, was the top traded issue. The company, the country's second-biggest phone carrier, climbed 4.03 percent or P30 to P775 on market expectations of higher profits in the third quarter fueled by growth in its mobile phone business.

PLDT, the country's largest phone firm, gained 2.07 percent or P15 to P740 on anticipation of strong corporate earnings. The company is due to announce its third-quarter profits next week. ***Reuters***

SEC readies rules on single day stock trade transactions in PSE

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is planning to formulate rules that will govern single day trading in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SEC market regulation department director Jose Aquino said the SEC was considering putting a cap on day-trade transactions and requiring investors to put up cash deposits.

Both moves are expected to draw strong objections from the stock brokers.

Single day trading refers to the practice of buying and selling shares in a single trading session, with the investors settling their accounts only at the end of the day.

This means that if the share price of the issue that investors bought went up during the day, they would be able to collect profits without putting up capital.

However, if the stock goes down, investors would have to pay their brokers the amount lost.

"Day traders currently do not release cash when buying stocks as they sell these issues during the same day," Aquino said.

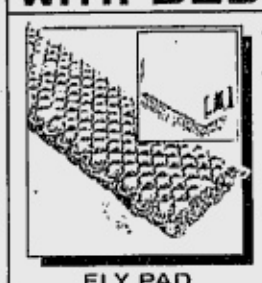
Day traders in the United States put up cash deposits to cover their trades, according to SEC consultant Raul Villegas.

The SEC is considering drawing up a similar ruling in its proposed amendments to the implementing rules and regulations of securities laws.

Aquino said there was no study yet on how prevalent the practice of day trading was in the PSE.

He said brokers were likely object to the new regulations because day trading provides significant liquidity and therefore volume to the market.

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?



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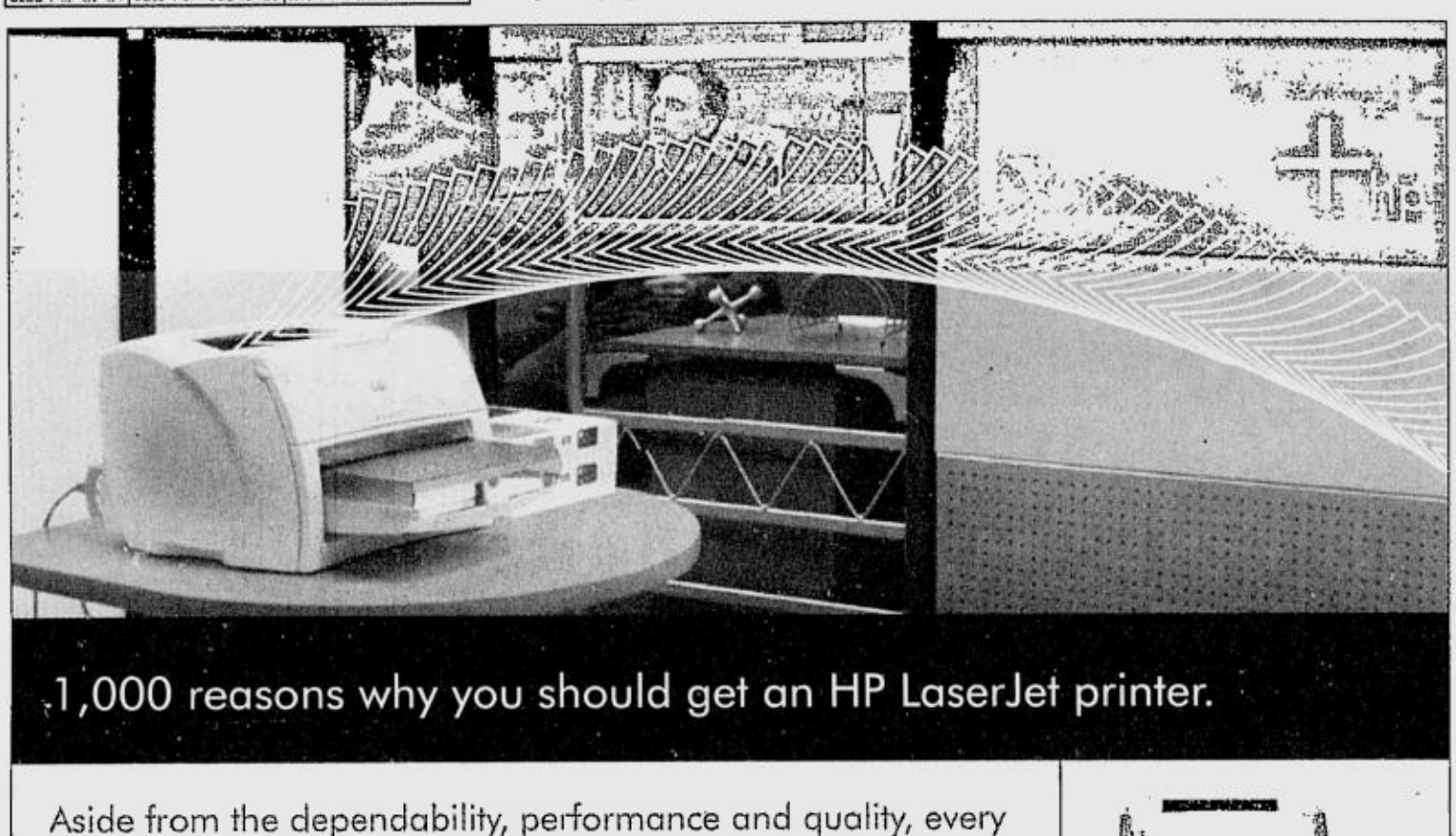

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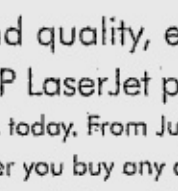

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(As of October 28, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	57,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44	44	44	211,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	12,000
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	580,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27	99,600
Union Bank of the Phil	28	28	28	28	2,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1610	1590	1600	1,100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	121,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1315	1315	1315	1315	1,940
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	27	26	26	6,900
Diversified Fin. Network	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	775	750	775	143,130
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	4,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.79	0.83	0.79	0.81	7,760,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	730	750	730	740	87,390
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	170,900
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	16,000,000
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Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	21	20.25	21	451,600
Petron Corp.	2	2	1.98	2	1,742,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	1.94	1.94	29,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	173,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.86	0.9	470,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	68,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	136,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	1,051,800
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	52,300
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62	62.5	270,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	130,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	3,290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	13,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	24,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	8,570,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	410,900
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.5	942,700
Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.58	228,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	2	1.9	2	73,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	4,114,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	11,020,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,950,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	140,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	2,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	570,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	28	28	28	27,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,215,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	7,100,900
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	880,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	16,847,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.2	0.13	0.2	230,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	430,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	233,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	3,904,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	2,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	14,000,900
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.008	66,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	27,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	210,000

Gov't to issue . . .

From page B1

Monday, bringing the benchmark 91-day rate to 5.966 percent.

Edeza said that the continued increase in domestic interest rates should be averted given the liquidity in the market.

Edeza said the sale of RTBs in November would be the last "novelty borrowing" for the year. In previous months, the government issued billions of pesos worth of promissory notes.

While meant to raise funds to help finance the government's budget deficit, the RTBs should also help improve the country's poor savings rate, said Edeza.

The national savings rate as a percentage of the gross national product has declined from 29 percent in 2000 to 21.9 percent in 2001. It was slightly up to 22 percent last year.

DISCLOSURES

SQL*WIZARD Inc.'s issuances of stock dividends are still pending awaiting approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

* * *

AS PART of its shares buy-back program, PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 40,000 shares at P1.32 per share and 5,000 shares at P1.30 per share on Oct. 27.

MEGAWORLD Corp. said it is interested in acquiring the 25-percent stake of the Bases Conversion Development Authority in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and is seriously studying and evaluating its options in anticipation of the privatization of BCDA's remaining stake in FBDC.

SECURITY Bank Corp. confirmed it was having talks with ING Bank to explore options for a Tier-2 capital exercise.

* * *

THE BOARD of Bankard Inc. elected Armando Medina as new member of the compensation committee to serve the unexpired term of resigned member Valentin Araneta.

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12. It will be held at the Social Hall A, One Roxas Triangle Makati City. The record date is Nov. 10.

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. declared cash dividends in the total amount of P16,524,621 to be distributed among the stockholders of record as of Nov. 10. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 28, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.850991405	1.000000	55.490000
Japan	Yen	0.007842	0.009215	0.511300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443281	1.696000	94.111000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109767	0.128987	7.157500
Switzerland	Franc	0.64611	0.759244	42.130400
Canada	Dollar	0.64986	0.763650	42.374900
Singapore	Dollar	0.488094	0.573559	31.826800
Australia	Dollar	0.599459	0.704424	39.088500
Bahrain	Dinar	2.257392	2.652661	147.196200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226931	0.266667	14.797400
Brunei	Dollar	0.486698	0.571919	31.735800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000117	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021301	0.025031	1.389000
UAE	Dirham	0.231714	0.272287	15.109200
Euro	Euro	1	1.175100	65.206300
Argentina	Peso	0.300174	0.352734	19.573200
Brazil	REAL	0.29703	0.349040	19.368200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134566	0.158128	8.774500
India	Rupee	0.018781	0.022070	1.224700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223975	0.263193	14.604600
Mexico	New Peso	0.076714	0.090147	5.002300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519024	0.609905	33.843600
Norway	Kroner	0.121106	0.142312	7.896900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014829	0.017425	0.966900
Korea	Won	0.00072	0.000846	0.046900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025132	0.029533	1.638800

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SMC to borrow ₱10B from local banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is raising some P10 billion from the domestic market to finance its expansion binge here and abroad.

In an interview with INQUIRER, a top SMC official yesterday confirmed that instead of joining the bandwagon of local companies tapping the foreign market to take advantage of favorable spreads, Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage conglomerate would source its required funds from the domestic market.

The official explained that especially now that the peso was sharply depreciating against the US dollar, it was better for SMC to borrow domestically to avoid foreign exchange risks.

"Most of our revenues are in pesos, not dollars, so it's better to avoid dollar loans," the official said.

In the meantime, the official said it was better to conserve the company's dollar hoard. SMC earlier raised over $400 million from the sale of a 15-percent stake to Japan's Kirin Brewery Ltd.

This time, the source said SMC hoped to raise as much as P10 billion from local banks, but the fresh borrowings would not be done in a single tranche.

"Initially, we're hoping to get P5 billion," the official said.

With SMC's good track record, the official said it should not be difficult to get banks who would be willing to lend.

"We can get five-year loans with fixed interest rates," the official said.

Apart from recent expansion initiatives in the region, the official said SMC had lined up more acquisitions in the region.

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1	316i	2003	Titanium Silver	1,000 kms	1,480,000
2	318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	13,000 kms	1,625,000
3	318i Limousine	2002	Orient Blue	12,000 kms	1,625,000
4	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	8,000 kms	1,690,000
5	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	5,000 kms	1,750,000
6	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	1,750,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	9,000 kms	1,730,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	9,000 kms	1,730,000
9	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	2,100,000
10	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	12,000 kms	2,350,000
11	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	2,400,000
12	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	18,000 kms	2,550,000
13	525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,600,000
14	520i	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	2,800,000
15	Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	5,000 kms	2,980,000
16	525i	2003	Toledo Blue	7,000 kms	3,300,000

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

	Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price
1	316i	1997	Boston Green	60,000 kms	685,000
2	320i	1997	Calypso Red	60,000 kms	840,000
3	318tds	1996	Arktis Silver	52,000 kms	875,000
4	320i	1998	Arktis Silver	68,000 kms	880,000
5	525i	1995	Alpine White	54,000 kms	650,000
6	X53.0i	2001	Black Sapphire	34,000 kms	3,100,000

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Mirant reaching out via Project Beacon

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MIRANT Philippines, the local subsidiary of US-based energy company Mirant, has consistently been one of the biggest money-makers in the Philippines. Last year, the company made a profit of P8.6 billion.

Mirant operates several power plants in the country with a total capacity of 2,300 megawatts. The biggest of which are the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant and the 750-megawatt Pagbilao coal-fired plant.

But being the country's largest and most profitable independent power producer is not the only means by which the company measures its success.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Triple bottom line

Mirant staunchly believes in the "triple bottom line" concept, which measures not just pesos and centavos at the end of the year, but how well it has performed as a partner for growth, not only of the communities where its power plants are located, but of the country as a whole.

Mirant put a lot of money where its mouth is through Project Beacon (Barangay Electrification Assistance for Countryside Development), which sought to provide electricity to 1,000 remote barangays all over the country, and is considered its flagship social development project.

Project Beacon cost Mirant P1 billion, considered the biggest corporate social responsibility project ever undertaken by a single company. It is benefiting 33 provinces and 44 cooperatives and covering at least 300,000 households nationwide—from Aparri to Tawi-Tawi.

Mirant, through its corporate citizen arm Mirant Philippine Foundation, got into the project when it heeded the call of the government for private sector participation in the O-llaw program, which sought to provide the basic energy services to remote of barangays to spur economic development in the countryside.

Responding to call

Department of Energy figures showed that there were still 8,348 out of the country's total 41,995 barangays that have no electricity as of end-2000. More than 633 barangays were energized from January to July 2001, bringing the electrification level to 81.6 percent.

The goal is to provide electricity to all barangays by 2006, but the DoE said that this would not be achieved without the help of the private sector because of its limited resources.

Mirant was one of the companies that responded to the government's call for help.

Mirant president Edgardo Bautista said that Project Beacon and the other projects undertaken by the foundation were born out of the company's desire to give back to the Filipinos what it has earned from the continuous operations of its power plants in the country.

"It is our corporate commitment to the country," Bautista said.

Project Beacon was started last year and is now at the tail end of its program to provide electricity to these areas. Bautista said there are plans to revisit these barangays and extend the assistance from just providing basic electricity to livelihood projects, thus, helping in the government's poverty reduction efforts.

Human resource dev't

Similar to Project Beacon is Project Amore, which was aimed at providing electricity and livelihood projects to over 160 barangays in Tawi-Tawi.

The project is being undertaken by the private sector, the local government and the United States Agency for International Development. One of the goals of the project is to promote peace in the conflict-stricken area by providing livelihood through the use of electricity.

Aside from providing electricity, Mirant also believes that the country's greatest resource is its human capital. Thus, it contributes to the development of this resource through Project Excel (Excellence in Science, Math and Information Technology).

Mirant chose to concentrate on these subjects in view of the notable decline in the quality of teaching in these areas, which are important in making today's youth globally competitive.

Project Excel seeks to develop the curriculum and instruction of public science high schools. Mirant emphasized on the use of IT

MIRANT/ B4

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TALKS ON FRIDAY

CalPERS expected to raise Davide impeachment issue

A PHILIPPINE mission tasked to convince California Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) to keep the country as an investment site is expecting the US' biggest pension fund to raise in their forthcoming talks the impeachment issue involving Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

This issue is seen crucial to the mission's presentation before CalPERS and its trusted adviser, Wilshire Consulting. It was Wilshire that recommended to CalPERS to drop the Philippines from the pension fund's list of investment sites in February.

Corazon Guidote, executive director of the country's Investor Relations Office, said the government team that would face CalPERS and Wilshire would underscore the democratic system in the Philippines in explaining the Davide impeachment issue.

While the influential US pension fund has only about $30 million in local stocks, its investment decision signals others to do the same. CalPERS manages around $133 billion in assets, with about $1.8 billion in emerging markets.

"This only shows that democracy is at work. It is alive and kicking," said Guidote.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho will lead the Philippine team that will meet with CalPERS and Wilshire on Friday.

Other members of the team are Guidote, Ambassador Alberto del Rosario, Justice Zenaida Elipano, Labor Assistant Secretary Antonette Allores, Assistant Governor Juan de Zuniga of the central bank, Philippine Stock Exchange president Alicia Arroyo, central bank director Edith Alido, and Ruberto Canapat of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In April, CalPERS gave the Philippines a one-year "cure period," within which it should improve on areas where it was found deficient. Failure to improve on those areas will mean the removal of the country from CalPERS' list next year.

During the one-year cure period, CalPERS' investment managers were still permitted to make investments in the Philippines although Wilshire recommended otherwise.

Guidote said government officials were working overtime to convince CalPERS to keep the country in the list after the next annual update.

TAIPAN Lucio Tan (center) listens as Rev. Fr. Tamerlane Lana, rector of the University of Santo Tomas, reads the citation conferring on him a Doctor of Philosophy, Major in Commerce degree during investiture rites Saturday. The UST Graduate of School of Business bestowed upon him the coveted title under the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP). With Tan during the conferment rites are wife Carmen (right) and son Lucio Tan Jr. (second from right).

61 firms non-compliant with SEC rules, report says

By Elena R. Torrijos

CLOSE to half of 124 publicly-held companies have failed to comply with some of the requirements on financial statements set by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This was one of the findings of a review of 124 listed companies conducted by the University of the Philippines.

The review showed that there were "inadequate" and "unclear" disclosures in many of them.

The summary of preliminary findings showed that 61 of the 124 companies covered by the review did not have the statement of management's responsibility in their financial statements as prescribed by the SEC.

The SEC had earlier said that the statement of management responsibility must include the following sentence:

"The management likewise discloses to the company's audit committee and to its external auditor: (i) all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls that could adversely affect its ability to record, process and report financial data; (ii) material weaknesses in the internal controls; and (iii) any fraud that involves management or other employees who exercise significant roles in internal controls."

The UP review also showed that most of the "inadequate" and "unclear" disclosures were in the areas of accounting policies; attached scheduled and required additional information; carrying value of assets pledged as security; and amounts of guarantees on significant commitments and contingencies.

Around 20 companies also filed qualified financial statements, which meant that the external auditor had some questions on the financial statements.

The SEC tapped a team from UP to review the latest audited financial statements of mostly publicly-listed companies to see whether they followed SEC and accounting rules under the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Allied Bank expands presence in China

TEN years after setting foot in Xiamen as the first fully foreign-owned commercial bank in China, Allied Commercial Bank is expanding westward with the inauguration of its first branch in the industrial city of Chongqing.

A subsidiary of Allied Banking Corp., Allied Commercial Bank's Chongqing branch is located at the third level of Hilton Hotel in the heart of the city's business district.

Like its mother unit in Xiamen, Allied Commercial Bank-Chongqing hopes to take a crack at the burgeoning business opportunities in this bustling city of 30 million.

Leading the inauguration rites of the bank's newest branch was Allied Bank founder Dr. Lucio C. Tan who was joined by a 200-man delegation from the Philippines, which includes top business leaders from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (PCCI), Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) and executives from Allied Bank and the Lucio C. Tan Group. Top government officials of Chongqing City and Sichuan Province also graced the occasion.

"Following the Chinese central government's directive to hasten and accelerate the development of Western China, Allied Commercial Bank decided to locate its first branch in the City of Chongqing as an initial salvo of the group's investment, and more importantly, as a testament of our confidence in this region," Tan said in his keynote address.

Mirant reaching out . . .

From page B3

both as a tool for teaching and as a means of creating a globally competitive workforce.

Part of Project Excel is Project BIG STAR (Bringing Information Technology to Grassroots through Science and Technology Advancement Resources), which aims to enhance the capability of public schools to adopt a high school level IT curriculum as training ground for technical, creative and business career paths.

Caring for environment

Another major program is Mirant's Carbon Sink Initiative aimed at alleviating global warming and preserving the country's diminishing forest cover.

The project will reforest a total of 150 hectares of mangrove and 150 hectares of upland forests. The project is called Carbon Sink because forests absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas which causes global warming.

Mirant felt that it was in a unique position because its power plant was located in Pagbilao, Quezon, which is considered the second most bio-diverse forest in the world, hosting 47 different varieties of trees.

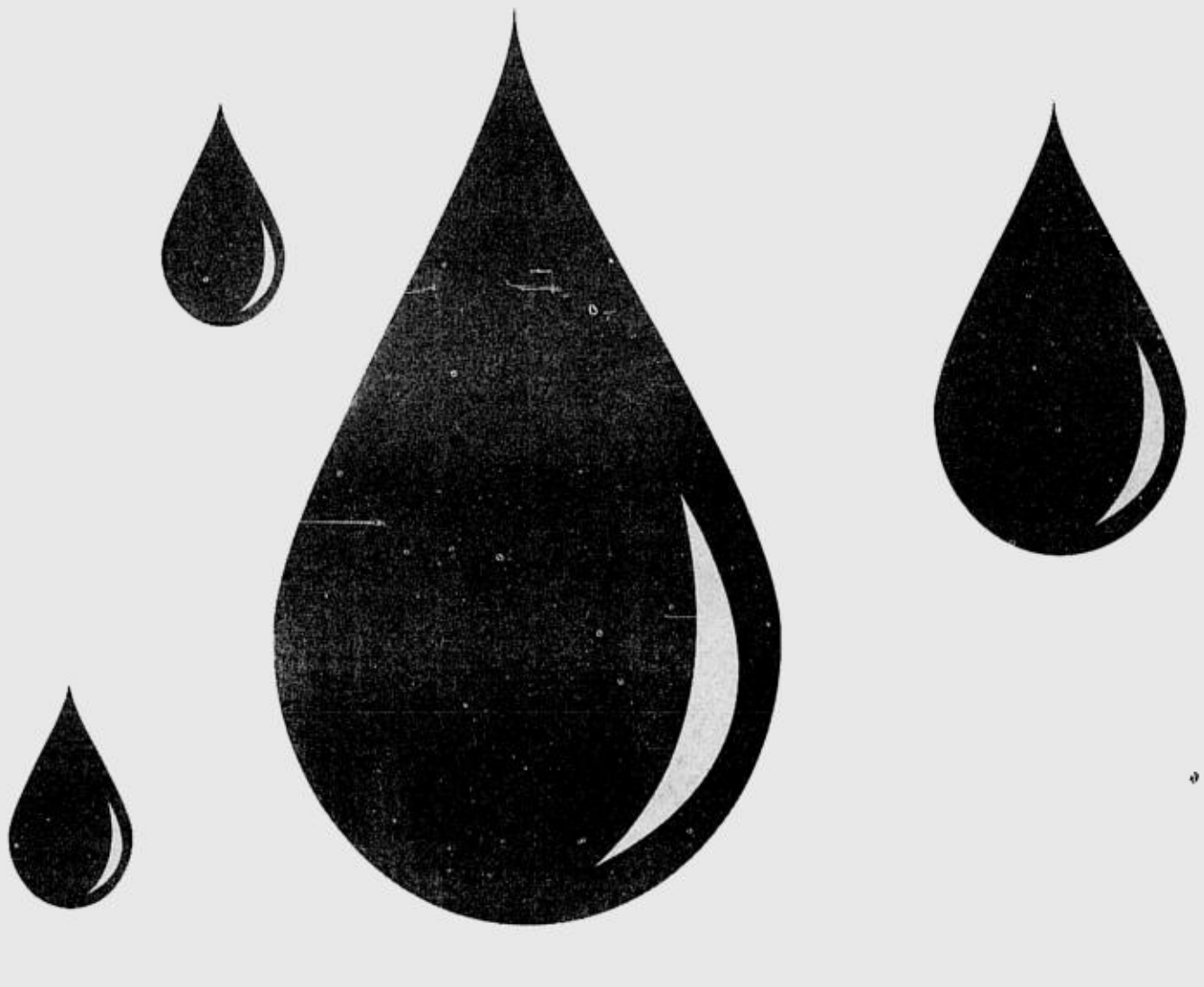
Mirant's Carbon Sink initiative is the largest private sector initiative to preserve and protect the country's mangrove forests.

Mirant's latest project is the joint venture with Hands On Manila Foundation Inc.

The program offers Mirant employees an opportunity to engage in meaningful and fulfilling volunteer work, meet each other, interact with the community, foster teamwork and achieve a sense of collective accomplishment.

Hands-On Foundation is a nonprofit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for community projects within the Metro Manila, to foster the spirit of volunteerism.

Bautista said the volunteer program was the ideal next step for Mirant to enhance the commitment of each member of the company to the community and help Mirant employees work as a team.



PLDT plans to sell prime Makati property to SM

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is in talks with the SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy for the sale of a prime five-hectare lot at the corner of Jupiter and Nicanor Garcia Sts. in Makati City.

PLDT insiders said that the SM group was interested in converting the property, which is currently used as a garage for PLDT vehicles, into a shopping mall.

PLDT hopes to sell the property for at least P450 million, but company sources said the SM group was haggling for P300 million.

Despite the lower offer, PLDT still stands to earn from the sale considering that it was bought in 1986 for only P48 million.

PLDT management hopes to conclude the sale next month to offset the expected losses from its fixed-line or basic telephone services.

This year marks the first time that the fixed line business would incur a loss after 75 years of operation. Management informed PLDT's board of directors during a meeting held earlier this month that losses from the fixed line business could go up to as much as P1.16 billion due partly to the separation payments made to some 1,000 employees covered by the retrenchment program this year and debt financing charges.

PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan last week confirmed that the company would book new loss provisions in the third quarter, but said PLDT was sticking to its consolidated net profit target for the year of P9 billion to P10 billion.

Amid dwindling revenues from the fixed line business, PLDT is banking on sustained growth from its wireless units, particularly Smart Communications Inc., to meet the profit target. PLDT recorded a net profit of P1.8 billion after provisions during the first half.

While PLDT is under pressure to meet its profit target, Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc. continues to expand with the opening of its 15th shopping mall in Lucena, Quezon to cater to the Southern Tagalog and Bicol markets.

SMPH said in a statement that SM City-Lucena, which opened early this month, was one of the three new malls that it would open this year as part of it's expansion plan.

SM City-Baguio is set to open on Nov. 21 followed by SM City-Marilao in Bulacan on Nov. 28.

"SMPH will have 17 operating malls with total gross floor area of 2.2 million square meters by the end of 2003," the company said.

Located only a kilometer away from the city proper, the new mall is at the intersection of the Lucena/Pagbilao National Highway and the Dalahican road. It is a 15-minute drive from the bustling Dalahican Fish Port and is easily accessible via public transport.

The three-level SM City-Lucena has a gross floor area of 72,056 square meters of shopping, entertainment and dining floor area that is 85 percent leased out.

Its anchor tenants include SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center, Watson's, Ace Hardware, Our Home, Toy Kingdom and Surplus Shops.

Other tenants include foreign clothing brands Guess, Esprit and Marithe Francois Girbaud as well as local brands Bench, Kamiseta, Bayo, Mendrez and Celine.

The mall also hosts homegrown brands such as Koffee Klatch, Buddy's Restaurant, Clinica Lucena and Donna Kids.

To add to the entertainment attractions, the mall offers four state-of-the-art cinemas with a total seating capacity of 2,300 as well as a children's carousel and play area. A bowling center is likewise slated to open soon.

This shopping mall chain aims to open at least two new malls each year to sustain at least a 10 percent annual growth in net profits.

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Notice To The Public

Notice is hereby served to the general public and investing principals that the Makati RTC Br. 59, in its order dated July 31, 2002 has effected and enforced the WRIT of ATTACHMENT on the entire PAMANA ISLAND (in Subic Bay), titled to Pamana Island Resort Hotel and Marina Club, Inc. in favor of Primelink Properties and Developement Corporation (PLPDC) who is acting for and behalf of protecting its own interest and that of other investors.

The investing public is enjoined to honor and uphold the above cited court order.

From: PLPDC
(office of legal affairs)
c/o 25th flr., Raffles Corporate Center,
Emerald Avenue, Pasig City
915-0350 / 915-0351

Fears of power crisis top agenda in meet

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Worries about a possible power crisis in Mindanao is expected to dominate the agenda of the 12th Mindanao Business Conference, which would be held at the Pryce Plaza here today.

Marriz Manuel Agbon, secretary-general of the 12th Mindanao Business Conference, told the INQUIRER that businessmen were worried that the island would be hit by a serious power shortage by 2005 if moves are not made today to put in additional power facilities for the region.

The National Power Corp. (Napocor) earlier warned that the increasing economic activity in Mindanao, including the entry of power-based investments, was exhausting the island's power generation capability.

The state-owned firm said there was a need to establish additional power sources to boost the capability of the Agus hydro system, the island's main source of power.

Agbon said that this early, businessmen wanted an assurance that the government would be able to address Mindanao's energy needs over the next two years amid the rising demand for power in some parts of Mindanao.

"We are seeing (an increase in) demand (for) power but the supply is insufficient. Such a problem must be addressed now and we need a long-term plan, not just a short-term one," she stressed.

In Northern Mindanao alone, Agbon said at least eight firms, which invested some $300 billion, would start operations next year.

She said if the government fails to address the impending power shortage, these firms would be forced to move their investments elsewhere.

"Power crisis is even worse than a coup d'état, thus, it should be addressed before it invades us," Agbon said.

Agbon also disclosed that the Mindanao Business Council (MBC) would assess the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to ensure that incentives offered by the government would be attractive enough to power investors. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Asian tech stocks shine

SINGAPORE—Leading technology stocks drove up Asian markets on Tuesday, spurred by US peers, while the dollar hit fresh three-year lows against the yen.

Sony Corp. rose more than one percent ahead of announcements about a company restructuring and a flat screen television joint venture with Korea's Samsung Electronics—both made after the Tokyo market closed.

Samsung jumped 3.1 percent ahead of the joint-venture news.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. rose 3.1 percent ahead of its results.

After the Taiwan market closed, the world's top contract microchip maker said its third-quarter net profit leapt nearly five times on brisk demand for consumer electronics and cutting-edge products.

MSCI's broadest index of Asian shares outside Japan rose one percent and has gained seven percent over the past month despite falls last week.

While investors cheered the Sony-Samsung TV plan, they were wary about Sony's restructuring.

The Japanese consumer electronics and entertainment firm said it would cut about 20,000 jobs worldwide over three years to boost its battered profits.

The Nikkei average pushed up one percent to 10,561 on gains of between eight and 11 percent in banking stocks Mizuho Financial Group and fourth-ranked UFJ Holdings Inc. Near the market close, UFJ tripled its first-half net profit target to 180 billion yen from 60 billion.

"But there are also a lot of concerns about the stronger yen and the prospects for Koizumi's reform policies, and that is being reflected in the thinner buying by foreign investors that we have been seeing recently," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, head of global equities at Credit Lyonnais.

Taiwan's Compeq Manufacturing Co. touched its maximum daily seven percent limit after saying it would soon announce a new strategic partnership. That helped drive the market's benchmark index up two percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 2.5 percent, helped by a seven percent jump by China Unicom. South Korean shares rose 1.8 percent on gains by top lender Kookmin Bank and Samsung Electronics.

Bond investors feared the US Federal Reserve's policy committee, due to meet later in the day, might hint that a rate hike was getting closer.

This was stirred by forecast-beating housing data that reflected strength in the US economy and could tip the Fed's hand toward higher rates. Most analysts, however, do not expect a hike until mid-2004 at the earliest.

The benchmark 10-year note yielded 4.28 percent, up modestly from 4.26 percent, and the five-year note yielded 3.2 percent versus 3.19 percent. *Reuters*

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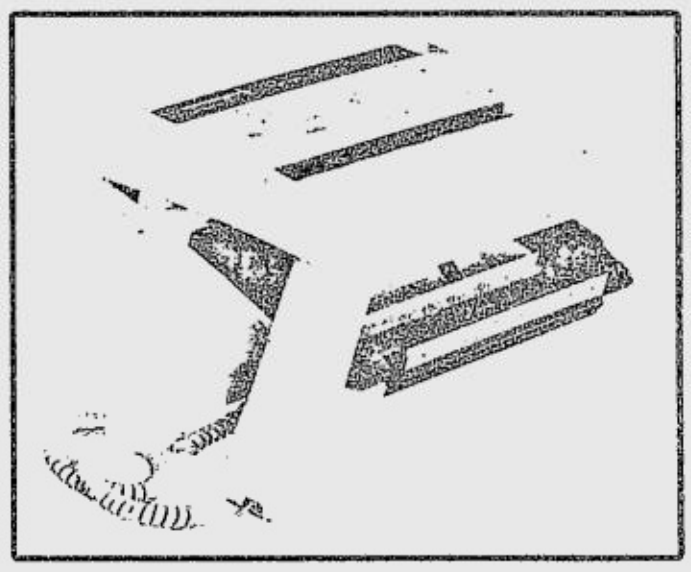

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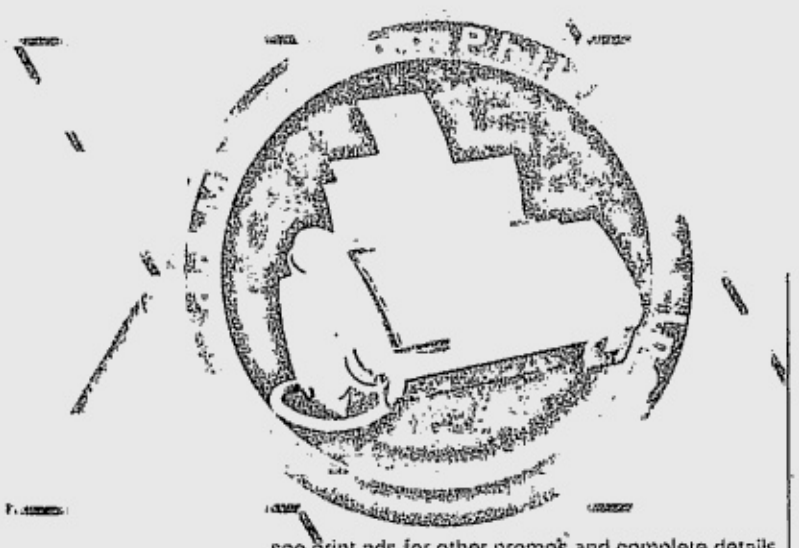

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PEOPLE at WORK

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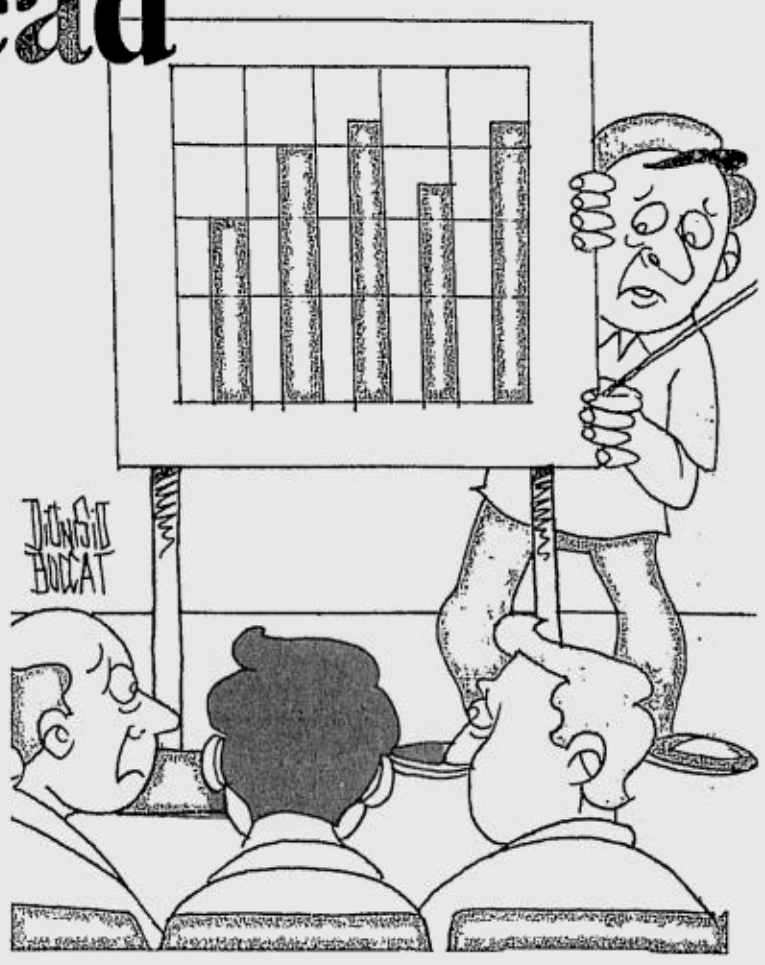
Present well, move ahead



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Sev Sarmenta

TWO supervisors in a company get the chance to vie for a recently vacated managerial position. The senior executives ask salesmen Miguel and Dennis to submit and present a possible new incentive scheme that could help revive the sales team's sub-par performance over the last couple of years.

Miguel is gung-ho about presenting and earning that management spot. The minute he receives the instructions for the pitch, he starts preparing his thoughts, conceptualizing early the PowerPoint visuals he will use for the big day. He has supreme confidence in his presentation skills and has no doubt that he will nab that promotion.

On the other hand, Dennis is a bundle of nerves as he desperately prepares for the presentation. He hates this need to publicly present his ideas, content with his behind-the-scenes people skills of motivating and developing young new talent. He's the quiet, efficient type and hates standing in front of a big or authoritative audience. And yet he knows that he needs that management spot to improve his position in the company and his salary to boot. And he does have a great idea to improve their sales performance. Dennis goes about preparing grudgingly, aware that presenting is not really his strong suit.

Who do you think will get the promotion?

Assuming that Miguel did not suddenly turn the company inside out and Dennis fumbled his way as he had expected, we can foresee that Miguel had the edge in gaining that coveted spot.

How many of you are like Dennis—hesitant to make that presentation or to improve your presentation skills so as to move up the company ladder? Surprisingly enough, there are many like Dennis who allow their nerves and their apprehensions to get the better of them. They never really move from where they are in the company while others, who are either just gifted or conscientious enough to learn how to present, whiz by them in the promotion game. There is absolutely no choice for the fainthearted in the race for top positions or winning new accounts in the corporate world. Presenting is a skill that has to be learned for one to go far.

Nothing beats live

Despite the advent of useful technology that has reduced the need for too many small group or even large-scale meetings, a well-prepared presentation delivered "live" remains an integral part of corporate life. There is a never-ending need for the sales pitch, financial approach or creative treatment to be presented up front with one person or a team forwarding their ideas in front of an equally "live" audience. There is warmth and even excitement when people come together face to face to discuss new ways of doing things—something that a teleconference, an e-mail exchange or a swapping of memos and proposals cannot seem to offer. Thus, those who know how to communicate their ideas get the nods of superiors, the loyalty of subordinates or the approval of clients.

Identifying fears

Refusal to deal with presentation fears and learn the basic techniques is rooted mainly in the fear of public speaking. Performance coach Lilyan Wilder points out that many people consider the thought or task of having to speak in front of an audience as one of their most harrowing fears. For them, a presentation, speech or any kind of public performance leaves them almost bare and unprotected.

Unfortunately, as of to date, as Mitch Murray points out in "The Handbook of the Terrified Speaker," no antidote has yet been invented to overcome the fear of having to face an audience. The aspiring executive really has no choice—he or she has to present or else, remain as a mere spectator. The best thing is to confront those fears and do something about them if you want to get anywhere in the world.

Wilder, in her informative book "Seven Steps to Fearless Speaking," outlines some basic reasons why individuals refuse to speak up in front of an audience or learn the ropes. Most of them are career related:

- There is the fear that a bungled up presentation will mean the end of one's employment or career.
- There is an unnecessary need for perfection, that nothing less than a flawless presentation will do.
- There are those who simply panic at the thought of having to present.
- There are previous presentations that are just so traumatic that people wouldn't touch presenting again with a 10-foot pole.

Overcoming fears

These fears are understandable but even the best presenters had one or all of them at one time or another. They will tell you that they did not master their skills overnight. They went through their own share of mistakes and blunders—from jumbling up figures and charts, mispronouncing names of people and places or talking with an erratic audio-visual or sound system. These things can happen even after rehearsals and thorough preparations because we're just human.

The great presenters became who they are because they did not give up. They learned from their mistakes and carried on. If you just relax and explain calmly your points despite some technical errors, you can usually get the job done. But if you panic in the face of a technical problem or a sequence mix up, then you lose your audience and your message as well. Learn from each experience—nurture your strengths and improve on your shortcomings.

There will be presentations where a client or boss will be really impressed. And there will be others where endless questions will be thrown. If you realize this, it will help in calming your fears. Some presentations will win you accounts in an instant while some may just get you a foot in the door. The point is you must continue to present and take all comers and audiences to get anywhere in your business.

Believe also that there is value in what you have to say. If you are not convinced about what you are about to pitch, then we can't see how you will be able to convince a client, manager or potential customer of your message. This belief will subsequently infuse passion and energy in your preparation and eventual delivery. *(More next week)*

(Mr. Sarmenta is a broadcaster, a college professor at the Ateneo Department of Communication and producer of PR tools. He has lectured extensively on presentation skills to teachers, journalists, corporate executives and employees.)

Job hunting guide for new accountants

By Maritza A. David

BACK to square one. This is exactly how new accountants feel after earning their degree, because the next step is certification, which is necessary for professions regulated by the government. The pressure to pass the CPA board exam is even greater than the pressure to earn the degree. But when an accountant gets the right to affix those three letters to his or her name, the job hunt starts in earnest.

Academic credentials are the first thing accounting firms look at. But more than theoretical knowledge or technical skill, interpersonal skills and leadership qualities often spell the difference for potential recruits.

Proactive recruitment

In the accounting profession, the recruitment process begins even before applicants submit their resumes to a firm's human resources department. The process of hiring starts even while prospective hires are still in school. Gerry B. Sanvictores, HR Partner-in-Charge of SyCip Gores Velayo & Co. (SGV), calls this proactive recruitment. "We liaise with the different accounting schools, and we try to get as close as possible to the CPA hopefuls, by participating in their student activities and also by accommodating them as our on-the-job trainees," he explains. This way, accounting undergrads become familiar with SGV's work environment, and at the same time, SGV is able to identify potential hires.

Career growth

After closely monitoring the performance of the CPA hopefuls up until the release of the CPA board exam results, the country's top accounting firms then scramble to get the best of the new accountants. While money may be a bone of contention for potential hires, opportunities for growth should also be an important consideration. "Opportunities for growth should surpass the monetary level," Sanvictores stresses. The best hires should not only look for a competitive compensation package, but opportunities to continuously learn and develop their skills.

Meozah Campana, third placer in the May 2003 board exam, attests to this. "I looked for a firm that could enhance my skills and abilities as a CPA," she said. Chiara Ann Farcon, also a third placer in last May's board exam, echoes Meozah's statement, "It is important for me to work in a firm where I can maximize what I know and at the same time, I am able to learn more." Campana and Farcon are both beginning their careers as SGV associates.

Learning opportunities

In SGV, learning opportunities come in the form of training programs that focus not only on enhancing technical knowledge, but also on people skills, the arts and humanities, and sports and recreation. SGV believes that its commitment to the continuing education of its people is the building block of the quality service the firm is known for. Sanvictores adds, "It is not just a job, but a career we're offering our people."

Meritocracy

While professional firms such as SGV provide opportunities for growth, potential hires must still bear in mind that they will ultimately define their own career path. Moving up in the public accounting profession would mean gaining recognition based on merit. This is especially vital in today's workplace, where maturity, and not longevity, has become the measure for advancement.

SGV associate Albert Balisi, 10th placer in May 2003 board exam

SGV associate Michelle Robles, 20th placer in May 2003 board exam

As a firm which espouses meritocracy, SGV puts a strong emphasis not only on learning, but also on on-the-job performance. Albert Balisi, tenth placer in last May's board exam and now SGV associate, confirmed this early on in his career. He reflects, "The challenge for me now is to prove that I am worthy of being a top-notcher, and that the firm did not make a mistake in choosing me." Michelle Robles, also an SGV associate who was in the top 20 in last May's board exam, agrees, "After having succeeded in becoming a CPA, I now have to meet the expectations of the people I work with," she shares.

Indeed, in the accounting profession, the Biblical passage holds true: much is expected from whom much is given.

As this October's new accountants make their way into the country's workforce, Sanvictores offers them this advice: "Going into public accounting is akin to a vocation, because it is a commitment, and you really have to like the profession to succeed."

An accountant's life is not easy life, simply because it requires much from the person-energy, time, patience, discipline, skill, and the resolve to balance one's professional and personal life. Nevertheless, the sense of fulfillment from a job well done can be more than enough motivation to strive for excellence in one's work.

What can you do when you've lost a customer?

DEAR WW: I recently lost one of my oldest customers. Should I try to contact them or just move on?

Cry Over Spilled Milk?

Did you say spilled milk? Now here's something to cry over . . . California Safeway stores recently learned that they were holding 10,000 gallons of spoiled milk, which of course they had to get rid of. Trouble was, they weren't sure how to do that. So many employees simply poured the milk into storm drains. Problem solved, right? Er, not exactly. Days later people started calling utility companies and EPA offices wondering why creeks in their neighborhoods were looking sort of milky . . .

Some Safeway officials may have cried over that spilled milk: they were fined $200,000 by the state of California. But rather than crying over your lost customers, you need to engage them in dialogue. You may not win them back, but the information you gain will be well worth the effort. The tips below will help you stop a trickle of customers from becoming a flood. For more ideas, check out "50 Powerful Ways to Win New Customers" by Paul Timm (Career Press, 1997).

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Winning ways

Determine if the customer you've lost is one of your BEST. Ever heard of the 80/20 rule? It says that 20 percent of your customers usually provide 80 percent of your business. So the real question is: is this company one of your 20%ers? If so, do everything you can to win it back. Find out why they left. If your wife left a note to say she'd moved in with her mother, would you call her up to find out why? Of course! So do the same for your best customers. They're just marriage partners of a different sort, and most will do you the honor of telling you why they wanted a divorce.

Listen to-and act on-what they tell you. Former customers can be the most valuable focus group you'll ever have IF you learn from them rather than browbeating them. Take notes as they talk. Listen for opportunities to learn from your mistakes. Then share what they've said with others at your company.

Make them an offer they'll find hard to refuse. I'm not talking hard sell here. Just ask if there's something you can offer that would make them reconsider. Remember, it's probably cheaper to make them a special deal than to replace their business with a new customer. Don't give away the farm; just explore what it would take to keep them.

Say thanks

Thank them for their business. Even if they don't take you up on your offer, don't pass up the opportunity to say thank you. You may have to swallow your hurt and anger, but that beats ending the relationship on a sour note.

So before you decide that a customer is down the drain, remember these tips. You just might be able to milk the relationship back to health.

Poll results

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABC-news.com poll: If you were about to lose an important customer what would you do?

--Go looking for a new customer, 7.8%

--Offer a slightly better deal, 34.2%

--Whatever it took to get them back, 57.8%

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning WorkingWounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

How to empower yourself at work

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

HAVE you ever wondered how many people fail to accomplish what they could because they feel powerless? Did you ever realize that some people feel powerless even if they truly have power in themselves? Who do you think has greater power: the president of a country or the surgeon about to make a triple bypass operation on him?

In reality, power is situational. Babies are powerless in the sense that they cannot feed or care for themselves and yet they manage to get food or diaper change whenever they want. The president of a company has the power to influence all others in his organization because he sits at the "top of the pyramid." His power resides in his position, in his role and in his title.

Ordinary employees seem powerless in the face of the awesome power of the president of an organization. So are babies in the face of the almighty power of their parents, and yet babies can have the power to get what they want. What's the difference between employees and babies? Employees know that they don't have power and so they are powerless. Babies don't know that they don't have power and so they wield power, albeit "dependent power" over their parents.

In the workplace, the lines of power are clearly drawn and this tends to "intimidate" employees. But what truly render employees powerless are a number of mental roadblocks that employees must be aware of.

Mental roadblocks

Here are a few mindsets that keep people powerless even if they shouldn't be.

• **Authority.** Since birth, we have been subjected to several forms of authority—parents, teachers, officers in class organizations, fraternity or sorority officers and other forms of "bosses." We have always equated power with authority, position, title and role. We thought that if we don't have any of these, we are mere powerless followers.

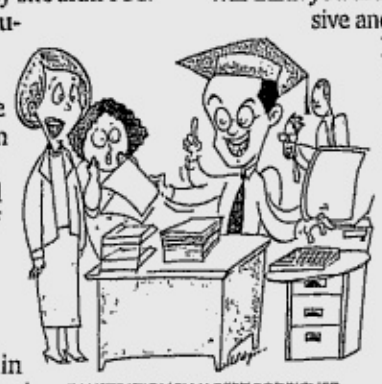


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Not so! Develop your competence in what you do, wherever you are in the organization's totem pole. If you master your job well, you can be the authority on it—not your boss. If you are a master in your chosen field of specialization, you wield power, with or without the position or title.

• **Assertiveness.** Let me give you the bad news straight. If you are compliant, submissive and dependent upon your boss, he will think that you lack leadership, initiative, and communication skills that are needed for managerial positions. But, since the day you applied for a job, you were given the impression that what the organization needs are people who are obedient, loyal and compliant.

On the other hand, if you try to be assertive, your boss will think you are too aggressive and a threat to his position. What to do? Assert your right, take the initiative, help your boss do his job, and make him look good so that he can be promoted. If you've been helping your boss do his job, who do you think will he recommend as his replacement?

• **Accessibility.** Here's another bad news. Being always available can backfire in your career. Too much accessibility will make you very ordinary. People who are always available are usually the clerks or assistants who cater to the needs of the greater mass of employees. Learn the art of making yourself "scarce" occasionally. "Get lost" in order to think quietly and creatively, benchmark with the best and show innovations in your job.

But beware of too much absence. In business organizations, absence doesn't make the heart grow fonder—it makes it forget. Make sure that you're not forgotten when it's time for bonuses, salary increases or promotions. Learn to package yourself in such a way that your boss will think that your present group will not miss you if he promotes you to a more responsible position.

• **Approval.** We feel good when other people appreciate what we do, sometimes to the point that we try to always please other people with what we do. The moment you begin to work in order to get approval or appreciation, you give others power over you. Instead of doing your best, you tend to do what you think is best in the eyes of others.

We also tend to be sensitive to feedback from others. As for me, I'll do my job the best way I can, based on agreed standards and specifications. When I get feedback about my work from other people, I don't get affected. Feedback tells me more about the person talking than about the work I did.

If you want power, look inside you. The more you are not attached to external matters, the greater awareness you will have of the powers that you have. You don't need other people to bestow powers upon you. Truly, the first step to gaining power is self-awareness.

(Mr. Cecilia is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and human resources management consulting firm. He can be reached at erniec@edsamail.com.ph.)

More info on 'Successfully Woman'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

IN my last column, I wrote of the struggle to be recognized in the workplace, and how old-fashioned hard work needs to be enhanced by skills, image and the seemingly mysterious "leadership potential." I invited readers to take the first step towards the success they deserve, through a seminar series co-presented by Metro Working Mom and Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc. "Successfully Woman: A Guide to Succeed in Work and Life" drew so much interest among readers that this column will be dedicated to answering their questions.

What are the seminars about?

There will be three lectures. On November 11, Lirio Mapa, vice president of the Center of Leadership and Change, will discuss "Communicating with Power," from what prevents women from speaking up in the workplace to key strategies in effective communication.

On November 12, Maricor Salas Ding, president of MSD Personnel Development Consultants, will talk about "Developing a Winning Image." This learning session will tackle the importance of image management, including how to develop the visual poise and posture to mark leaders.

On November 13, Josefina Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., will share the secrets to "Becoming a Manager-Leader." She will explain the difference between managing and leading, the key to establishing good goals and trust, the secret to effective delegation and timely decision making.

Each seminar takes three hours, divided into a lecture, open forum, and a panel discussion on how to apply the day's lessons at work and at home.

Where and when will it be held?

The seminars will take place from November 11 to 13, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the SGV Hall, 3rd floor, ACCM Building, Benavidez St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. The building is next to the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

How much will it cost?

Tickets range from P100 to P300, a tenth of the usual price of standard career workshops.

Who can I call for more information or to make reservations?

Call 935-668 for ticket sales. If you have any questions, you can reach the Metro Working Mom's Customer Service hotline at 415-2272 loc 4568 or the Marketing Department at 215-2272 local 4637.

Unfortunately, I can't attend this particular workshop series. Will there be any more in the future?

Metro Working Mom regularly conducts self-development workshops on the challenges of juggling career, family and self. The events are usually announced beforehand in the magazine issue. You can also call 415-2272 loc 4644, or email workingmom@abs.pinoycentral.com for more information.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at workingmom@pinoycentral.com.*)*

DON'T MISS IT!

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invites CEOs, COOs, management executives and decision makers to the

2nd MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

on

4 November 2003, 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
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Conference Theme:

"NEW IDEAS TO OUST OLD MINDSETS" (Solutions in Tough Times)

In tough times, executives are finding themselves digging their heels deep, in search of NEW IDEAS. The only real wealth is found in NEW IDEAS and somebody willing to act on it. Every good leader is also a learner. The speakers will share NEW IDEAS that will bring new revelation and opportunity as well as equip us to make a difference in the business world!

Chit U. Juan, CEO of Figaro Coffee Company, will be one of the speakers for the session on "If David Can Beat Goliath, So Can You." She started with their family corporation, exporting jeep bodies and replacement parts to USA, Japan, Australia and Europe. She put up Tavern on the Square in 1982 with college friends. In 1993, she started Figaro with family friends as partners. In 1999, she took up the challenge of "Saving the Barako" coffee variety, a pet project of the Figaro Foundation Corporation.

SPEAKERS:

Mr. DOMINIC BARTON, *Chairman for Asia Pacific Practice, McKinsey & Co.*
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Mr. AHMED REDA CHAMI, *Chair, Microsoft Asia Pacific*
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Ms. CHIT U. JUAN, *President/CEO, Figaro Coffee Company*
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(The Conference is open to the public)

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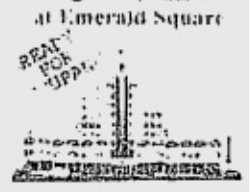

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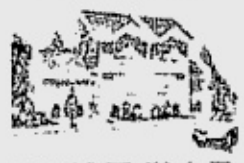

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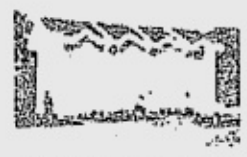

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
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LATE LILIA SANTOS VILLA
HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY
SETTLED BY THE HEIRS AS
PER DOC. # 159, PAGE # 32,
BOOK # 111, SERIES OF 2003
BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC
JOYCE C. G. BONDOC OF
MUNTINLUPA CITY (PDI-OCT
22, 29, NOV. 5, 2003)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
Visayas-Operation and Maintenance
Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban C.C.
Tel. No. 346-3427, 346-9449

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANS-VIS-2003-10

Bidding Dates SCHEDULE I November 20, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office
SCHEDULE II November 21, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office

The National Transmission Corporation, Administration Division-Visayas invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on (pls. see above schedule) to be opened publicly at Transco Bidding Room, Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City for the following requirements:

PR NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY./UM	APPROVED BUDGET (ABC)
SCHEDULE I	(REPUBLICATION)		
PSMD-TC-2003-020	High voltage DC Electric test set	1 set	Php 750,000.00
NAP-2003-074	Storage Battery, lead acid	60 pcs	960,000.00
NAP-2003-075	Capacitor voltage transformer	2 units	250,000.00
NAP-2003-080	Fault indicator	8 pcs	304,000.00
PSMD-RS-03-033	VHF mobile radio	2 sets	100,000.00
SODV-2003-003	Establishment of anti-static carpet	lot	185,000.00
NORS-2003-041	Generator set	1 set	696,000.00
PSMD-RS-03-038	RF frequency counter, portable	1 set	25,000.00
PSMD-RS-03-040	RF power meter	1 set	30,000.00
PSMD-RS-03-042	Digital multimeter w/ dB functions	2 sets	30,000.00
VSOD-03-044	2 MB UV Electronically erasable/programmable ROM	12 PCS	57,120.00
	1 MB UV Electronically erasable/programmable ROM	12 PCS	36,312.00
	256K (32K x 8) Non-volatile CMOS static RAM	12 PCS	107,700.00
	POWER MOSFET, IFR-540	10 PCS	11,750.00
	POWER MOSFET, IFR-740	10 PCS	15,000.00
	INDUCTOR, 100uH, TEARDROPS CAP TYPE	24 PCS	1,440.00
NOPC-2003-230	Insulator, suspension	3,549 pcs	5,855,850.00
SCHEDULE II			
D2CB-2003-148	Various hardware materials	various	Php 937,166.40
D2CB-2003-150	Oil, transformer/insulating	55 drums	610,500.00
PSMD-TC-03-099	Decade resistor boxes	1 set	700,000.00
NAP-03-322	Power circuit breaker	2 units	3,926,300.00
NCCP-03-004405	Air conditioners, various specifications	7 units	523,380.00

All bids should be within the Approved Budget of Contract to be Bid in order to qualify.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available starting October 29, 2003, at the Materials Management Services Section from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00 / schedule and presentation of TIN-Supplier's Number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents will be on November 10, 2003.

For further inquiries please contact Mr. J.D. Rosell thru telephone number (032)346-9449 or fax number (032) 346-3427.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 40 and as amended by Republic Act 9184.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) OCTAVIO G. BRIONES
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
"BEWARE"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TWO (2) PARCELS OF LAND COVERED BY TCT NO. RT-3400 (313432) WITH 3,612 SQM. AND TCT NO. RT-3505 (313431) WITH 4,250 SQM., MORE OR LESS, FOR THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF QUEZON CITY, IN THE NAME OF MIDAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LOCATED AT GREEN MEADOWS SUBDIVISION, IS NOT IN ANY MANNER SUBJECT FOR SALE OR LOAN MORTGAGE WITH ANY BANK OR FINANCING INSTITUTION AND THEREFORE, ANY TRANSACTION, OR DEALINGS BEING NEGOTIATED BY ANY PARTY OR ENTITY ON THE SAID PARCELS OF LAND IS UNAUTHORIZED AND FRAUDULENT.

FOR ANY QUESTION OR CLARIFICATION ON THE ABOVE, YOU MAY GET IN TOUCH WITH US AT TEL. NO. 671-2718/671-2785/363-3571 TO 74, FAX NO. 671-2719, MIDAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 103-104 E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE, BRGY. UGONG, PASIG CITY.

(PDI–Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 2003)

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ENCARNACION LAIGO ALBANO

WIDOW of DR. ANTONIO G. ALBANO
of Dingras, Ilocos Norte & Bauang, La Union

passed away in the grace of our Lord
on October 26, 2003 at the age of 93.

Her bereaved children & in-laws **GERVACIO (†) & PERLITA, GENARO (†) & EVELYN, ESTER & JERROLD GARCIA, CECILIO & FE, JOSE & FE, FATHER ARTURO, ERNESTO & YOLANDA;** her grandchildren and great grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Her interment will be on NOVEMBER 4, 2003 (Tuesday), at the MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, Sucat, Parañaque, after the 8:00 A.M. Holy Mass.

Remembering Our Beloved...

Dra. Engracia V. Lagman

Schedule of Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on her Ninth Death Anniversary in the following Churches on October 30, 2003

CHRIST THE KING
Green Meadows Ave. Q.C.
6:00 a.m.

SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C.
6:30 a.m.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
Regalado Ave., Fairview, Q.C.
6:00 a.m.

TWIN HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY
West Triangle, Q.C.
6:30 a.m.

LOURDES CHURCH
Kanlaon St., Q.C.
7:30 a.m.

MT. CARMEL SHRINE
New Manila, Q.C.
6:00 a.m.

STA. RITA DE CASCIA PARISH
Philam Life Homes, Q.C.
6:30 a.m.

STA. PERPETUA PARISH
D. Tuazon, Q.C.
6:00 a.m.

MARY THE QUEEN
West Greenhills, San Juan, Q.C.
6:00 p.m.

OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH
Malate, Manila
6:00 a.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH
San Agustin Parish, Intramuros Manila
6:30 a.m.

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
6:15 a.m.

MONASTERIO DE STA. CLARA
C-5 Katipunan Ave., Q.C.
6:00 a.m.

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
7:15 a.m.

BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPCION
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral
7:30 a.m.

NAT'L SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
Sto Domingo Church, Q.C.
7:15 a.m.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
6:00 a.m.

SAN AGUSTIN PARISH
San Agustin, San Fernando Pampanga
6:30 a.m.

STA. RITA PARISH
Sta. Rita, Pampanga
5:30 p.m.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
San Fernando, Pampanga
6:15 a.m.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

In Loving Memory
ON THE SIXTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

ASUNCION "SONING" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City

(BELOVED WIFE OF THE LATE ROQUE "TETE" VANO ESCAÑO AND FOUNDRESS & FIRST CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD RIA HOJAS ESCAÑO FOUNDATION, INC.)

Who died in the grace of our Lord last October 29, 1997

Holy masses will be offered today, Wednesday, October 29, 2003 at the following:

Greenhills Memorial Park, Bulua	4:00 p.m.
San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
Jesus Nazareno Parish, Recto Avenue	5:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
St. Augustine Cathedral	5:30 p.m.
San Antonio de Padua, Nazareth	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Bukidnon	6:00 a.m.

The RIA (ROQUE, ISIDRO & ASUNCION) Hojas Escaño Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff, Grandson **FRANZ JOSEF**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember **ASUNCION** in their prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

DR. RENATO T. TURIANO, M.D.

Of Iriga City and Daet, Camarines Norte

(Born in Iriga City on January 5, 1936 and died in Quezon City on October 29, 2001)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on Oct. 29, 2003

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHEDRAL	
Legaspi City	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH	
Legaspi City	6:00 a.m.
REDEMPTORIST CHURCH	
Legaspi City	6:00 a.m.
HOLY CROSS PARISH	
Nabua, Camarines Sur	6:00 a.m.
ST. RAFAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH	
Pili, Camarines Sur	6:00 a.m
OUR LADY OF PEÑAFRANCIA BASILICA	
Naga City	6:00 a.m.
NAGA CITY METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL	
Naga City	6:00 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH	
Daet, Camarines Norte	5:00 p.m.
JESUS LORD OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH	
Novaliches, Quezon City	7:30 p.m.
MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH	
Kamuning, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.

Request the readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.
DAD, WE MISS YOU SO MUCH!
WIFE *Ludy,* **CHILDREN** *Ruby and Teddy, Nono and Malu, Boyet and Grace, Prince and Dan, Joseph and Mae, Butch and Joy, Peter and Mia, Dino and Elsie, Carla, Carolyn, Grace and Ting* **GRANDCHILDREN** *and Greatgrandchildren*

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TESDA

INVITATION TO BID

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) invites interested bidders to submit sealed bids for the following service requirements located in TESDA Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila and NITVET – NCTESD Marikina City.

BID PACKAGE I – JANITORIAL SERVICES
BID PACKAGE II – SECURITY SERVICES

All interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00** starting **November 3, 2003** from the Procurement and Supply Division, 3rd Floor, TESDA Complex, Administration Building, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila with telephone numbers **893-82-96 & 817-40-76** local **313 - 315**.

However, TESDA shall not allow any firm or corporation to submit bids in both service requirements, much more to win and be awarded of both service contracts. Any attempt to deceive TESDA of this condition shall lead to disqualification or termination of contract.

A pre-bid conference shall be held at the Conference Room, Office of the Regional Director, Region IV-A on **November 18, 2003 at 9:00 P.M.** for Janitorial services and **2:00 p.m.** for Security services. All prospective bidders are required to attend.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in local currency in the form of *cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit* of not less than **one percent (1%)** of the total bid price and must be delivered at the Conference Room, Office of the Regional Director, Region IV-A on or before **9:00 p.m.** for Janitorial services and **2:00 p.m.** for Security services of **December 2, 2003**. Thereafter, the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative(s) who attended. Late bids will not be accepted.

TESDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received or to accept such bids which maybe considered most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Director General

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : October 25, 2003
Loan No. : 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No. : ADB-VEHZ-SEDIP

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles.

2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles for the following:

Item No.	Type of Vehicle	Qty.	Recipient Institutions
1	Pick-up, 4x4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Benguet, La Trinidad, Benguet
2	Pick-up, 4x4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Ifugao, Lagawe, Ifugao
3	Pick-up, 4x4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Antique, San Jose, Antique
4	Pick-up, 4x4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Agusan del Sur, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur
5	Pick-up, 4x4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Surigao del Sur, Tandag, Surigao del Sur

3. The mode of procurement shall be through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB).

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid forms and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC Office, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. #8321361 loc. 2019 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the DBM Procurement Service at http://www.procurementservice.org.

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 30, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00)

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to Bidders on or before 10:00 a.m. on December 5, 2003 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.

7. Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on November 17, 2003 at the same time and at the address indicated in paragraph 6.

8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

(Sgd.) USEC. JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–October 29 & Nov. 5, 2003)

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

'Statin' price cut for cholesterol-lowering therapy patients

MERCK Sharp and Dohme (MSD) announces a price rollback for its prescription drug, simvastatin. All dosage strengths for MSD's simvastatin are expected to be sold at a uniform price in leading drugstores, though prices may vary for some drugstores.

Filipinos using statins to lower their cholesterol are expected to benefit from this latest price cut. This translates to savings of at least 37 percent and at most 57 percent-making MSD's simvastatin more affordable in the market and more accessible to the public.

MSD's price rollback is in support of the government's campaign to make the cost of medication affordable to more Filipinos and of the increasing demand for cholesterol-lowering medication. MSD is also guided by the philosophy of its founder, George W. Merck, that medicines must reach the people who need them most.

MSD was the first pharmaceutical company to introduce statins in the country with the launch of its simvastatin in 1992. The simvastatin of MSD, the only US FDA-approved simvastatin, has been in the global market for over 15 years and has been prescribed to more than 40 million patients.

Cholesterol-lowering drugs, known as 'statins', may no longer be viewed only as a treatment drug, but also as a preventive drug. In the Heart Protection Study done in the United Kingdom, it was proven that about one-third of all heart attacks and strokes could be avoided in people at risk of heart disease when cholesterol modifying drug was used to lower the blood cholesterol levels (regardless of the person's age, sex, or cholesterol level). With this landmark finding, more people, including the elderly, diabetics, hypertensives, women, those with stroke or peripheral vascular disease, and even those with "normal" cholesterol levels, can now be expected to benefit from this medication.

Simvastatin is a prescription drug. To know more about hypercholesterolemia or elevated cholesterol, patients should consult their physician for proper diagnosis and treatment. MSD operates a customer service call center at 878-6338 or (toll-free) 1-800-1-888-6737.

ASSUMPTION FINALIST IN PANA MARKETING CONTEST

THE ANNUAL marketing communications awards, under the aegis of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), gathered five of the best marketing communications schools in Metro Manila to show their creative, strategic and integrated marketing skills and vie for the prestigious Pana Marketing Communications Awards. This year's grand prize winner is the marketing team from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, whose product presentation, Uncle Louie's, was adjudged as the best in integrated marketing communications strategy. Other school finalists include the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and Assumption College. Shown are the Assumption representatives in the recent Pana competition, from left, Dos Roque, MG Santos, Missy Arlata, Kat Gangoso and Tanya Blay. They are accompanied by mentor Kathy Villar. Inset shows the group's entry, the logo of the donut shop created for the competition.

EITSC ANNOUNCES IT PROGRAMMING CONTEST WINNERS

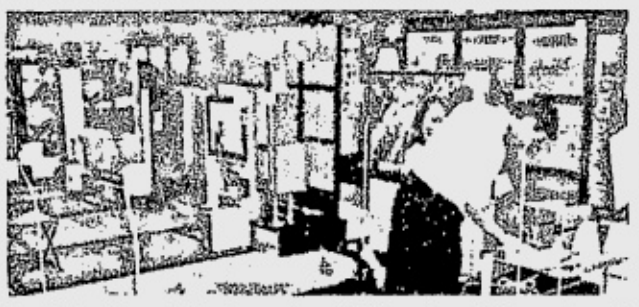
Twins John Michael Lozano (3rd from left) and John Paul Lozano (4th from right) won the first and second prizes, respectively, in the recently held Mobile Internet Applications Programming Competition, which was sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Nokia Philippines in partnership with the European IT Service Center (EITSC), at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. The contest, which demonstrated the skills of Filipino ICT experts, was part of the public-private partnership project Providing Mobile Internet Applications, Training and Technical Development in the ICT Sector. Also shown are (from left) Martin Chesbrough, director for mobile software integration Apac professional services of Nokia Networks, Maurice Ronan, 4th prize winner, Louie Delos Reyes and Delfin Juan III, 3rd prize winners, and Juliana Hinterberger, country portfolio manager of GTZ. At the back are Claus Karthe, chair of Nokia-Philippines and Andrew Paddon, senior applications architect for mobile software integration of Nokia. EITSC is an initiative of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), GTZ and the Asia-Europe Foundation of the Philippines to bridge the IT needs of Europe with the IT capabilities in the Philippines.

Sony's digital showcases...

...AT 31ST BPI MADNESS...

Sony Philippines Inc recently showcased its impressive line-up of consumer electronics products featuring the world's most admired digital technologies at the 31st BPI Madness Fair held recently at the Glorietta Activity Center at the Ayala Center in Makati. The BPI Madness Fairs enables BPI cardholders to buy appliances at low interest rates and the most convenient payment terms. BPI provides the most advantageous opportunities for cardholders, making it affordable for them to buy consumer electronics and other items that they otherwise would only dream about. In eight successive BPI Madness Fairs since July 2000, Sony Philippines has proven to be the leading brand in consumer electronics based on sales performance.

...AND AT CITIBANK APPLIANCE FESTIVAL



Sony offers Citibank cardholders the chance to purchase the Sony of their dreams on the best available terms at the SM Citibank Appliance Festival ongoing until Nov 2 at the SM Megamall, Megatrade Hall 3. This exclusive collaboration between SM and Citibank provides opportunities for shoppers to purchase consumer products and household appliances on the most convenient and advantageous terms. The fiesta allows Citibank credit cardholders to avail themselves of easy payment schemes of up to 12 months 0-percent interest. Sony continues as market leader for the whole line-up-in Personal Video, Hi-Fi, components, Personal Audio, and the Wega Theatre. Highlighted products will still be the Digital Video Camcorders and Home Theatre Systems. Sony Philippines sees its performance in SM Citibank and other selling exhibits as an indicator of local consumer trust and regard for the value of Sony products.

GMA MEETS TRANSPORT GROUPS IN UNIOIL STATION

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo formally launches the fuel discount program to all public utility vehicles (PUVs) at Uniol's Airport Road station. Her message stressed the markdown of P 0.20 to P 0.50 per liter of diesel to buses, jeepneys, tricycles, and yellow-plate FX's. This pricing incentive is available at all Unioil stations in Sucat Road and NAIA Road in Parañaque City, Airport Road corner Roxas Boulevard, Manila, FB Harrison, Pasay City, Regalado Avenue, and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Aubrey's 'Sanib' at Virgin Café

WATCH Aubrey Miles live in "Sanib" on Oct. 30, Thursday, 8 p.m. at Virgin Café Tomas Morato, Quezon City, catch her this time in a sexy Halloween musical comedy show together with the country's top stand-up comedians Boney, Donita, Aekaye, Ace and Kikay, doing the spoof of Regal's blockbuster horror film "Sanib" in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival. Special guest performance is by Juan Ramiro, with music accompaniment by Noxxious. The show is presented by Belo Medical Group, Bench, Avia and Mighty Corp. The spoof is written by Bonnie "Boney" Andrew Cruz, with concept and direction by Dennis de la Cruz and Benjie Pe Benito. The show is produced by Artistree Entertainment. For ticket reservations, call the Sunrise Entertainment Office at 718-1885 or 683-0676, 637-8360, 634-3197.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The LTO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all reputable Contractors to Pre-qualify and bid for the procurement of **MOTOR VEHICLE STICKERS, ALUMINUM AND REFLECTIVE SHEETING MATERIALS** for the Production of MV License Plates for CY 2004.

Prospective bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements to the Office of the Chairman, BAC, Sub-Committee, Property Section on or before **November 5, 2003:**

1. Name, address and telephone number of Company;
2. Registration Papers and Certificate of Accreditation from DTI;
3. Mayor's Permit and/or license to operate for the current year;
4. 2001 and 2002 Financial Statement;
5. SEC Articles of Incorporation. In case of Single Proprietorship, Registration Papers from DTI;
6. Certified True Copy of 2001 and 2002 Income Tax Return and BIR Official Receipt of Payment;
7. Track Record. List of Clients served for at least five (5) years;
8. BIR VAT Certificate;
9. A bidder should not have any interest/ownership with other companies/supplier and therefore must submit only one (1) bid. Sister companies will be disqualified in the bidding proper.

Pre-bidding conference for the procurement of the aforesaid material will be on **November 10, 2003** and bidding proper will be on **November 24, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The LTO neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that award will be made.

The LTO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, ban any bidder with unsatisfactory and derogatory track record. LTO may award the aforesaid projects to any contractor whose proposal as evaluated by the LTO-BAC is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PERCIVAL A. CENDAÑA**
BAC, Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 29, 2003)

Product Files

The magic of Encanto

WHAT'S in a name like Encanto? In Spanish, it translates to "something enchanting or bewitching", an appropriate label for all things marvelous, divine and almost magical in essence. Because of its mythical allusions, and perhaps propagated by colonial lore and literature, the term has also been loosely associated with supernatural references.

However misleading the term might be, Encanto couldn't have been more aptly chosen to describe the spirit and magical essence of wine. After all, there's something utterly magical and fascinating about it. Taken in moderate doses, it gives off that warm, satisfyingly feeling that leaves one in a state of constant stupor.

Thankfully, the fine art of wine-making-like most traditional art forms-hasn't sold its soul to the speed and convenience of modern-day machinations. Consequently, the end product, which usually takes years to perfect, continues to attest to the natural wonders of fermentation.

The dominance of European labels in the local market has brought to fore some Spanish imports as well, particularly the Encanto brand which is manufactured and bottled by Adegas Vinsa. This particular variety of red wine is derived from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape variety, which has been recently acclaimed for its nutritional attributes. Savor the magic. There's no turning back from Encanto Red Wine's bewitchingly intoxicating spell.

TOBY'S HOLDS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Toby's Sports, in cooperation with La Salle Greenhills and sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association, brings the Toby's Junior Age Badminton Championships. The tournament is open to boys and girls 18 and under, 16 under, 14 under, 12 under and 10 under for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles categories. Eliminations are being held, with the Oct. 29 to 31 elimination rounds at La Salle Greenhills, with finals on Nov. 2 and 3 at SM Megamall. Interested participants can register at any Toby's Sports outlets. Shown are Philippine Badminton Association president and former First Lady Amelita Ramos, Toby's sports operation manager Toby Claudio, and Toby's Junior Age Group Badminton Championships organizers Bing and Dina Guerrero.

Gift, food show open to exhibitors

GOOD news for merchants and exhibitors; a wondrous Christmas event is coming to town. The Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show, back-to-back with The Great Christmas Toy Show slated from Dec. 17 to 21 at the SM Megatrade Hall 2, is now open for booking and reservation.

This three-in-one event aims to be a one-stop bazaar for holiday shoppers. A unique Christmas show, it not only offers the best holiday finds of bath and body products, fashion accessories, leather goods, perfumes and scents, houseware, handicrafts and toys at bargain prices, but also glorious Christmas food items for gift-giving and Noche Buena.

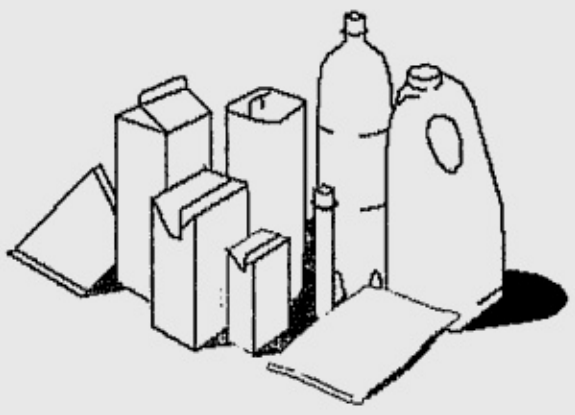
Aside from shopping, families can enjoy special activities like children's arts and crafts workshops, Christmas recipes cooking demos, stage shows and games. Plus, the show boasts of a Toy Pavilion with play stuff like dolls, action figures, toy cars and trucks, puzzles and games, electronic and video games. Neo Trade Enterprises, the exhibit organizer, expects over 25,000 visitors for its 5-day run.

Exhibitors who have already signed up include Manel's Leather Goods, Enchanted Kingdom, E-Charms, Jams, Kanami, Mrs. Fields Cookies, Meden's Fashion Jewelry, Century Gifts, Galinco Trading (maker of Chips Delight), Comic Sale Central, 8 Colors, Jewels Collection, Expose It, Louis Maclean, Mohicans, Hacienda Macalauan, Runtime Boutique, Serenity, Super Suha Davao Pomelo, Shalma Pearls, and Swire Manhattan.

Sponsors include Amspec (makers of Li'l Hands and Crayola), Mrs. Fields Cookies, Binondo Media Publication, Women's Journal, Crossover 105.1, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 DWTM, Citylite 88.3, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite and KCFM 93.9.

There are still booths available. Interested exhibitors can call the Neo Trade Christmas Show hotline at 812-9099 or 812-7450. They can also visit Unit 703, Cityland 10, Tower 2, HV Dela Costa Street corner Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, or e-mail neotrade1@yahoo.com.

Tetra Pak is dedicated to the development, manufacturing and marketing of systems for processing, packaging and distribution for liquid food products. We produce packaging materials at more than 50 plants and have more than 165 marketing companies around the world. Everyday more than 200 million Tetra Pak packages are distributed in 165 markets.



PROCESSING SYSTEM SALES MANAGER

For the sales of processing lines and systems for the liquid food industry, we are looking for a System Sales Manager

Must be self-driven, independent and dedicated individual with a clear sense of customer support, but also works well as a team player.

Must be an Engineering graduate w/ a minimum of 5 years sales experience for Process Equipment sales. Experienced in food processing equipment is an advantage.

Must manage a team of sales engineers.

Must be computer literate.

Likes to travel and must possess a driver's license.

Successful candidate will be offered a good compensation package, including a company car, as well as an extensive training program both locally and international.

Successful candidate is expected, in due time, to take charge of the whole Processing Division.

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitaé to:

Tetra Pak (Philippines), Inc.
7th Flr., Net One Center, 26th St. cor. Third Avenue
Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig, 1634
Or Mail to: HR/Admin Officer
P.O. Box 3562, MCPO 1275, Makati City

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Employment Expo 2003 at SM Megatrade Hall

JOBZ

Wondering where to find your dream job or what it takes to make it big in the corporate world?

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Or better yet, join us on **October 28-30, 2003** as the country's foremost and leading companies troop to **SM Megatrade Hall 1** for a three-day employment fest, the second leg of

JOBZ: Employment Expo 2003

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Makati Branch- 811-4361 /811-4370 811-4165 / 811-4012 / 892-5578
Quezon City Branch- 912-9008 to 10 / 912-9011
Mandaluyong Branch- 635-0219 / 637-2008 635-0220 **Manila Branch**- 527-3342 / 528-0183 528-0186 / 528-0213
Provincial Branch- 897-8808 loc. 243 899-4427 (direct) 897-8425

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

Invitation to Submit Proposals Offering of Heritage Park Investment Certificates

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested brokers to participate in the Offering of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) at Area 2 in the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila with an approximate total area of 2.28 hectares.

Interested brokers may submit their Letter of Intent to BCDA. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Offering of the HPICs will be ready for distribution to interested proponents on 17 October 2003 at the BCDA office. The TOR will outline the requirements that will enable participation in the privatization. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php1,000.00 payable to BCDA.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 05 November 2003 at 2:00 P.M. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property and project structure that form part of the Offering of HPICs, the TOR and other clarifications from interested brokers. Interested brokers will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested brokers can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP Committee (ADPCom)
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar cor. Lucas Sts., Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Bambie L. Andal and/or Ms. Mae G. Celestino at telephone nos. 510-0411 or 551-3006 to 11 and can write at the following email addresses: **blandal@bcda.gov.ph** or **mdcelestino@bcda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **RUFO COLAYCO**
President and CEO

(PDI–Oct. 18, 23 & 29, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BOMBON (CAMARINES SUR), INC.

1. Starting October 28, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Bombon (Camarines Sur), Inc. (**RBBI**)- Head Office and Naga City Branch.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly at the premises of the said closed bank on the dates indicated below, to file claims for insured deposits:

RBBI Office/Branch	Address	Servicing Dates
Head Office	San Isidro, Bombon Camarines Sur	October 28 to November 06, 2003
Naga City	Peñafrancia Avenue Naga City	October 28 to November 06, 2003

PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Valid identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Bombon (Cam. Sur), Inc. is on **April 02, 2005**. After **April 02, 2005**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – October 28 & 29, 2003)

Notice is hereby given to the public that Regular Membership Certificate No. 1289 of the Canlubang Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

Notice is hereby given to the public that Membership Certificate No. 1890 for 100 units of the Manila Golf & Country Club, Inc. issued in the name of UNION AJINOMOTO, INC. has been reported lost.

If within one year from the date of the last publication of this notice no contest is presented, said certificate shall be cancelled and in lieu thereof, a new membership Certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

Perryer's info session

THE University of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Esteban International School, is holding an Information Session on its Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program. To be conducted by Professor Chris Perryer, the event will be held on Nov. 5, 6 to 8 p.m. at the 26th floor Ayala Life-FGU Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. This unique MBA program, offered by UWA's Graduate School of Management, is for working professionals in Manila. Nine out of 12 professors are flow in from the University to facilitate classes, bringing world-class education to the Philippines.

Perryer teaches at UWA's Perth Singapore, Jakarta Shanghai, and Manila MBA programs. Prior to joining UWA-GSM, he was a sessional lecturer at Curtin University's Graduate School of Business, where he completed his MBA. For reservations, call the Esteban School at 844-2812 or 887-6390.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City 7000
Tel No. 991-1553 991-1857 • Fax No. 991-2279
E-mail Address: zcwdccsd@jetlink.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers of PVC Pipes and Bends to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO NO.	DESCRIPTION
7012	PVC Pipes and Bends for use in the Proposed Cawit-Tulungatong Distribution Line Project Approved Budget Cost: P1,225,268.00

Interested Licensed suppliers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the BAC Secretariat, 2/F, ZCWD Bldg., Pilar St., Zamboanga City after payment of a minimal refundable fee of P250.00

Pre-Bid Conference	:	November 5, 2003 2:00 PM AT THE 2/F ZCWD BLDG. PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY
Submission of Bids	:	November 7, 2003 2:00 PM AT THE 2/F ZCWD BLDG. PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC 2, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.**
BAC 2 Chairman

(PDI–Oct 29, 2003)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE	: **897-8808 loc. 514, 516 899-4425; 897-2535 897-8425 (Telefax)**
CUBAO	: **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)**
MAKATI	: **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370**
KALAW	: **528-0213, 527-3342**
MEGAMALL	: **635-0219, 635-0220**

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to submit sealed bids for the **Rehabilitation of Warehouse No. 3 of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base (BX03-683).**

PNOC EC Energy Supply Base is located in Brgy. Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas. The approved budget for the project is PHP5,500,000.00.

Pre-qualification and Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **October 29, 2003** upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand Two Hundred (PHP1,200.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than **3:00 P.M. of November 28, 2003** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **November 14, 2003, 1:00 P.M.** at PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Brgy. Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2003)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Logistics Center Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested suppliers, manufacturers and dealers of Ordnance Items to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply and delivery to the AFP of Ordnance Items with an approved budget of **P46M**, chargeable against **P787.106M ISO Fund.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **20 November 2003 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**

Tender Documents shall be available during office hours starting **03 November 2003** at Procurement Unit, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, upon payment of the corresponding non-refundable fee.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the Tender Documents.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes at the AFPLC BAC Secretariat at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Submission of the envelope shall be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 o'clock a.m. on **09 December 2003**, after which the opening of bids shall immediately follow.

The AFP Logistics Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the AFP. The AFP Logistics Center likewise assumes no obligation for whatever expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

For more information, please call the AFPLC BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 913-1175 or 911-6001 loc. 5434, or visit our website at www.armedforces.com

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO S RAMIREZ**
Colonel PAF (GSC)
Chairman

(PDI - Oct 29 & Nov 5 2003)

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Top 10 things to pack for your graveyard duties

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

Boo!

We crept out of our coffins to prepare a spine-tingling issue for you!

We've got ghost stories sure to make your skin crawl, movies that would make you sleep with the lights on, a store that's become a home for some of your favorite monsters and the most morbid of surveys. We explored death—what a burden it is on one's emotions, finances and even sense of artistry (you heard that right).

We also have the ultimate Halloween weekend guide for you—what to bring to the cemetery, what costumes to wear, which parties to go to and if you want a more intimate night, how to throw your own celebration for your friends. So, trick or treat. Which one will it be?

MENTION the word "cemetery" and my 8-year-old mind used to conjure tragic images of doom and sadness. It was the place to be all mawkish and maudlin and cry a river for the dead!

In my twisted little mind, I thought mausoleums were the best place to hold séances, and All Soul's Day was the perfect time to conduct one. Black would be the requisite sartorial color and wearing red would absolutely be taboo.

I was so totally enchanted by the idea of going to the cemetery—until I actually went to one.

It was a bizarre surreal sight. Amid all the graves of our dearly departed were stalls selling different kinds of food, old people busy playing mahjong, others scrounging around for electrical outlets to plug in their Betamax players and position portable TV antennas.

People were resting or sleeping on folding beds and mats. Oh, and the food! There were lots of food and booze you'd think it was a bacchanal. Some were even so inebriated they were already puking in the man-made bridge of the cemetery.

Well, I should have known better. Right before we left the house, the subject of heated debate between my mom and grandmother was whether to bring a mosquito net to the cemetery or just rely on good old "*katol*."

So before you haul ass and bring practically your whole household to the memorial park in order to do your graveyard duties for relatives past, read on. And pray that your designated memorial park has portalets all over the place.

10. **Extra batteries, extension cords, match sticks and lighters.** No one wants the high of communing with the dearly departed interrupted because your CD player or mini-component is dying out on you. In the off chance that there might be some vendor milling around selling batteries (hey, if some entrepreneur thought of selling fishing poles in the middle of Edsa, it makes more sense to sell batteries at a cemetery, right?) he's most probably going to charge you an arm and a leg.

Oh and don't forget the extension cord—believe you me, you will need it. You may not know this, but your mom may have secretly brought the refrigerator too or the smoke-less griller. You've got to be prepared.

9. **Board games, playing cards, books, magazines.** Now may be the best time to practice your skills in "*tong-its*" or Trivial Pursuit. Our own suggestion: play Charades—your theme could be popular scary movies or famous scary characters.

8. **Portable CD, VCD players, PS 2 or XBox.** You will, at some point, get bored, especially if you're doing an all-nighter. Watching "The Ring" and "The Sixth Sense," this time in a cemetery, might give these all-time faves a different dimension. Or, since you will have a lot of spare time, you can probably start and finish a whole season of "24" or "Alias." And don't forget to bring the telly.

7. **A guitar or any musical instrument that you know how to play, like a harmonica.** This may be the best time to show off your hidden talent or work on it. Who knows? You may be the next Paolo Santos. And when you get famous, you can tell all and sundry that you discovered your talent at a cemetery. Bonus points for being cool and different.

6. **Portable appliances.** This will be a great time to bring those cute hand-held battery-operated mini-fans, portable electric fans, portable light source or anything handy that might give you some relief from the heat and humidity. Stop yourself and draw the line, though, at bringing the mini-ref.

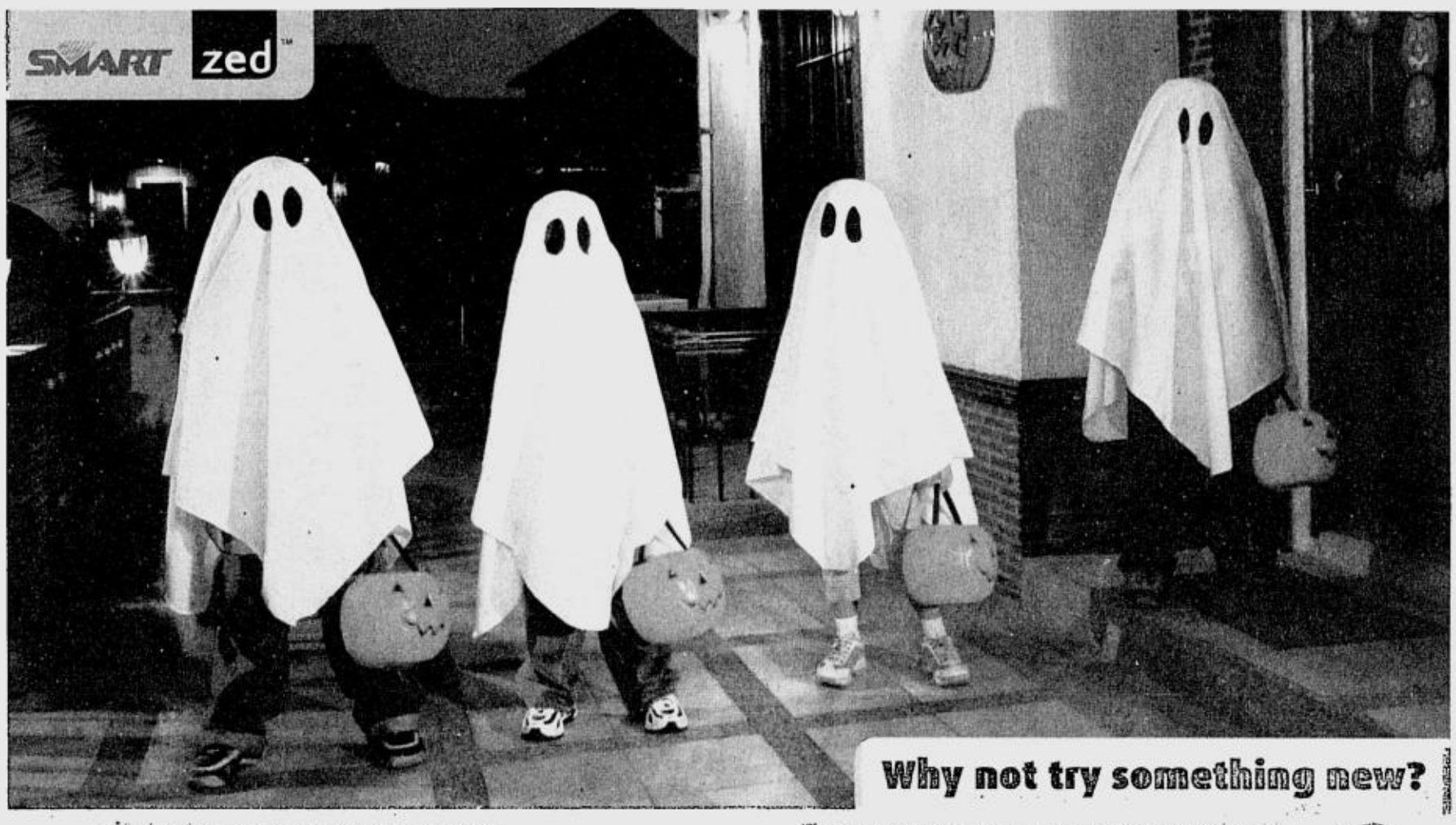
5. **Toiletries**—tissue, baby wipes, hand gel, rubbing alcohol, soap.

4. **Food and drinks.** Although, if you must know, fast food establishments and others have invaded the memorial park business. You can have chips, pizza, burgers and fries, *siopao* and *siomai* at the cemetery. Take your pick. *Balut* and *chichacorn* vendors are also everywhere, as are soda and water stations.

3. **Chairs, etc.** You can choose to squat on the grass, or let your veins pop. Better bring those Monobloc and lounge chairs, or even folding beds if you are planning to stay all night and may want to catch a few winks.

2. **Insect repellant.** Why is it that the idea of being bitten by a mosquito at a cemetery sounds much worse than the idea of being bitten by a regular household mosquito? Why *kaya*?

1. **Candles and flowers.** Sure, going to the cemetery seems, at best, like a whole big soiree. Remember, though, that you are there to commemorate and give honor to those who have gone to the Great Beyond. Say a sincere prayer for their repose, light candles and offer flowers—simple tasks that will go a long way in making our loved ones six feet under feel honored and remembered.



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5	Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
6	Numb	Linkin Park	TONE NUMB
7	Ignition	R. Kelly	TONE IGNI
8	Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	TONE BROKEN
9	Mr. Suave Ver. 2	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE MRSUAVE2
10	Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
11	Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka	Regine Velasquez	TONE UMUULAN
12	Kanlungan	Noel Cabangon	TONE KANLUNGAN
13	Here We Are	F4	TONE HEREWE
14	Banal Na Aso	Yano	TONE BANAL
15	Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
16	Thoia Thoing	R. Kelly	TONE THOIA
17	Get Busy	Sean Paul	TONE GETBUSY
18	If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE IFYOURNOT
19	Perfect	True Faith	TONE PERFECT
20	I Will Love Again	Lara Fabian	TONE LOVEAGN

I Want You	Thalia And Fat Joe	TONE IWANTU
Did My Time	Korn	TONE DIDTIME
Why Not	Hilary Duff	TONE WHYNOT
Friend Of Mine	Kuh Ledesma	TONE FRIENDOF
Lost With Out You	Delta Goodrem	TONE LOST
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First-hand supernatural

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

ALL Soul's Day. It's the time of year when the print and visual media, especially TV magazine and talk shows, feature stories about death, "life after death" and life in other dimensions like the supernaturals or elementals.

I often wonder why, despite my interest in these things, I was never given the opportunity to witness anything remotely close to a ghost story even after my father died almost six years ago.

I often saw my father in my dreams after he died, but he only made silent, passing and almost normal appearances that did not seem to impart any symbolism or message whatsoever.

Not that I actually wanted to be in that position where I would not know whether to scream or cry before the presence of other beings. I do not even know if I can handle it. Maybe I am just curious about how it feels. Maybe I really cannot believe until I experience or have seen it first-hand.

Then again, maybe I'm just not cut out for it.

Here are five stories of real people who had first-hand experiences with ghosts, elementals and other unexplainables.

Elevator boy

This happened very recently to "Joan" inside a multi-story building in Ortigas.

Joan works for a call center, sometimes on a graveyard shift, when her call time for work is supposedly 9:30 p.m.

On this shift one night, she arrived 30 minutes late, so the elevators were empty. She was thinking of an excuse for being late as she pressed the 14th floor button. The elevator door closed, and Joan stared up, anticipating a straight trip to the 14th floor since everyone else was supposed to be inside their offices by then.

But the door opened on the fifth floor, to a young boy wearing a cap and dressed in white shirt and beige shorts. Joan couldn't figure out what a boy was doing on that floor.

She tried to ignore the boy's presence, especially since she could see the boy's reflection on the elevator door.

But seconds later, the boy tugged at her elbow and asked for coins. Joan said she didn't have any coins and even asked him, "*Nasan ba mga magulang mo*? (Where are your parents?)" The boy answered, "*Gusto mo isama kita*? (Do you want me to take you with me?)"

Just then, elevator door opened again, this time on the 10th floor, which was very dark since it didn't have office hours at night. The boy got out.

Joan was left at the elevator and was in a daze as she finally reached her floor. Later during break time, she brought some company with her to the 10th floor after telling them what happened earlier. There was nobody there.

They spoke to the guard at the building about the young boy, and the guard casually told them the boy may have been the ghost they often see in the building.

Calling the exorcist!

"Faye," a junior editor, seems to have what we call the sixth sense.

She would often see ghosts and spirits hovering around her, but she never really made a big fuss about it, as she thought that not talking about it—except to close family and friends—might make it stop or die down eventually.

However, when she, along with other officemates, had to stay in a company guest house in Subic for an auditing project, one of her officemates was "possessed" by a spirit.

It started one night while she was taking a bath. As she glanced at the mirror, she saw the r flection of a white lady staring back at her. S looked around, but she was alone in the bat room. Thinking it was just one of her eerie v sions, she just stayed in the bathroom and quick washed her body.

As usual, she didn't tell anyone about it. Mi utes later, though, one of her officemates start crying and screaming for help, saying she could move and breathe. The officemate felt that som thing very heavy was lying on top of her, as if h body was being possessed by a spirit.

Faye already knew what was going on. She c plained to her officemates what she saw in the bat room earlier and told them. They prayed and co forted each other to calm down. The next mornin the spirit was gone and they were all fine.

Bedmate

UP Los Baños is home to many stories abo ghosts, as the campus used to shelter civilians a Japanese soldiers during World War II. Studer hear about ghost stories all the time, but a fir hand experience always comes as a shock, esp cially when one sees a white lady lying in her be

"Nicole" arrived at her dorm late at night, ve tired after school and extra-curricular activiti She opened her door and was ready to throw h body in the lower bed when she realized som body was lying there.

But she knew she was not supposed to ha roommates that night as they had gone to grou studies. And they didn't normally sleep in a roo mate's bed. The occupant was facing the wall, she didn't see the "intruder's" face.

She was disoriented for a moment because t body was in white dress but transparent. She cou actually see the wall next to her bed as she look through what seemed like a woman's body.

Nicole immediately left her room and spent t rest of the night in a friend's apartment.

Creepy Congress

"Lanie" once attended a gathering held by t UP Paranormal Society (UPPS), which invit people to share and discuss stories with the "Kape at Multo" was the title of the gathering.

She said what happened there was eerie enou that whenever she remembers it, her hands wou get cold and she would see images in her mind.

While waiting for the discussions to start, Lan saw a man in *barong Tagalog* walking in the aisle t ward the coordinators in front of them. She not that the man seemed upset. For her part, she w bothered by the way he looked in his *barong*.

Then one of the UPPS members later a nounced, "*Hindi po namin gustong takutin ka pero may mamang naka-barong Tagalog lumapit dito sa harapan. Nanonood lang nam*

Tales from the camp

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

Colleges have their share of ghost storie to rival those in 'Tale from the Crypt'

ILLUSTRATION ALBERT R

HALLOWEEN, the year's creepiest holiday, is upon us again. And, as is customary, it is time to dig up eerie stories of the supernatural. There is really no compelling reason behind it, simply that freaking out people is enough of a reward.

College campuses, despite being bastions of higher education, are not exempt from such tales. In fact, accounts of the macabre abound in their hallowed halls and cavernous corridors. Most students probably know the stories better than what they learned during freshman orientation.

Red tag

At the University of Santo Tomas Clinical Division, there is this story about an intern who was going home one night after a long day at the hospital. Exhausted, the intern went straight to the elevator and found that a female patient was already there.

When the doors opened at the first floor, the intern, who was about to step out, was startled by the sight of a woman gesturing to them to hold the elevator. He immediately went back inside and closed the elevator doors. Puzzled, the other passenger asked, "*Bakit niyo ho sinara, eh mukhang sasakay ho siya?*"

The intern replied, "*Pasyente ko kasi siya kaninang umaga. Patay na yun. Hindi mo ba nakita yung* red tag *sa kamay niya? Ibig sabihin 'non naembalsamo na siya.*"

His fellow passenger said, "*Ano ho? Yung katulad nito?*" pointing to a similar red tag on her wrist.

Endless stairs

Ateneo de Manila University's Sacred Heart

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tural' stories

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Five tales from people who believe they have had contact with beings from the other side

siya. Huwag kayong mag-alala. Nagdasal kami para hindi nila tayo gambalahin. (We don't want to upset you but a man in *barong* just approached us here in front. He's just observing us. We're praying that they wouldn't disturb us.)"

Keychain from mom

The following story was written by a friend, Lizzie R. Santos:

This happened the day my mom was cremated. It is not the usual ghost story. I'd rather consider it a love story.

My mom was to be cremated at 1 p.m. I was at Funeraria Paz at Araneta Avenue as early as 9:30 a.m. At around 10:30 a.m., my companion suggested that we go out for a while to eat an early lunch because relatives might start arriving. Since I hadn't eaten breakfast, I agreed.

We decided to ride a jeepney to a branch of Jollibee at the corner of Araneta and Quezon Avenues and just leave the car in the parking lot. I remember walking to the main road where we could get a jeepney.

As we stepped down from the pavement just in front of Funeraria Paz, my attention was caught by something glistening in a pool of water on the road. It was a silver keychain—the type used for Army dog tags (I know because my late dad was a war veteran). I had long been looking for a keychain like it!

My instinct told me to pick it up. But since it was lying in a pool of dirty water, I did not.

I forgot all about the keychain. When we got back to Funeraria Paz, relatives started arriving. Mom was cremated as scheduled. I was so tired by the time the ceremony was over that I just wanted to hurry home to get some sleep.

I clutched the urn that held my mom's still warm ashes. My companion ushered me to our vehicle. As he opened the door to my seat, something caught our attention. It was the silver keychain! I stared at it, unable to comprehend what had happened. I even remember my companion asking, "*O, ano yan*? (What's that?)"

I feigned nonchalance. I answered, "*Wala*, keychain *lang* (Nothing, just a keychain)." He thought I dropped it when I got out of the car.

But I did not.

It was the key chain I saw; the keychain I wanted! How could it have landed on my seat when the car was locked and nobody had entered it since we parked it that morning?

Then I realized who put it there. It was my mom. It was a very simple gesture; an assurance that she loved me and wanted to make me happy.

I always carry that keychain with me now. It's mom's gift from beyond.

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

uses

Novitiate has a story that has been told repeatedly over the years. It is said that one night, a group of freshmen students sneaked out of their dormitory after the others had gone to sleep.

Going down from their rooms on the third floor, the students were puzzled that they couldn't get to the building's ground level. They kept going down the stairs without reaching the ground floor. Even scarier was the fact that they kept passing the same painting of Jesus.

Chapel companion

One early morning, a female student of De La Salle University went by the school's St. La Salle Chapel to say a prayer before her exams.

Taking a pew near the front, the girl's prayer was interrupted when she heard sounds indicating someone else was in the room. She looked up and saw a bloodied man in tattered clothes, a bayonet stuck to his chest, approaching her and seemingly asking for help.

Empty jeep

One night, at the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus, a driver of a UP-*ikot* jeepney was surprised when a student caught a ride by hanging on to the handles at the back of the vehicle. The jeep was empty so the student could have sat inside.

When the driver asked his passenger why he didn't want to sit, the student said when he approached the jeepney, he saw it was full.

Headless soldier

One night, a girl was washing her face in one of the bathrooms of Adamson University's Saint Vincent de Paul building. When she looked at the mirror, she saw blood on her face instead of water. A headless man was also standing behind her wearing a soldier's uniform.

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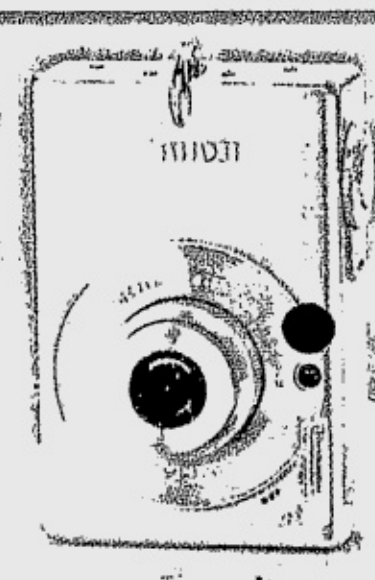

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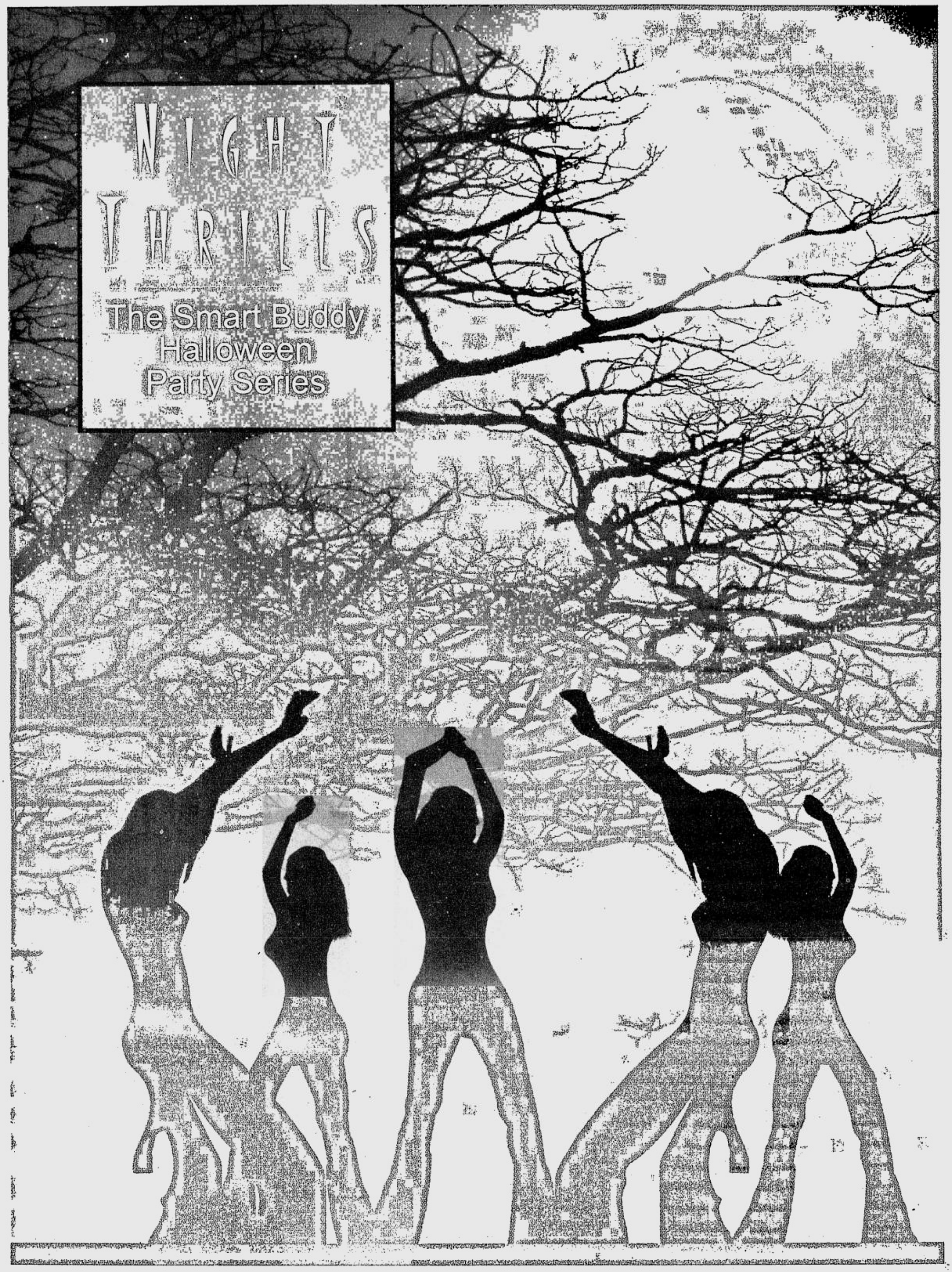
NIGHT THRILLS

The Smart Buddy Halloween Party Series



Watch out all SMART Buddies! We're taking our nationwide coverage to a chilling new level. SMART Buddy presents, NIGHT THRILLS - a spine-tingling Halloween celebration event series. It's a monster of a celebration as we bring the hottest parties and events across the nation. What's more, there'll be tons of exciting perks and freebies exclusive to SMART Buddy subscribers. So join us for the most thrilling Halloween celebration ever! It's just one of the advantages of being part of the SMART Buddy world.

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"Halloween at Gimbal's"
October 31
Gimbal's, Baguio.
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""Halloween seduction at the Oasis",
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VISAYAS

"Hallow's Eve Concert at the Village"
October 31
The Village, Cebu
With Nina and the K24/7 band.
FREE entrance for the first 50 SIM swappers to SMART.

MINDANAO

"Whistle Top Halloween"
October 30
Whistle Top Bar and Resto,
Matina Town Square, Davao
With Luke Mejares and Davao's local bands.
FREE entrance for the first 30 SIM swappers to SMART.

"Bamboo at Xcite Bar" October 31
Xcite Bar, Cagayan de Oro
FREE entrance for the first 50 SIM swappers to SMART.

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ILLUSTRATION:
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

2BU! SURVEY

Bidding the world goodbye in style

By Danicar Mariano
2bU! Correspondent

HOW do you want to die? That's a question not many young people think about seriously—not yet, anyway. But for Halloween, we badgered a number of them to share their views on how to exit this world properly, and the answers we culled are, well, revelatory.

I want to be cremated with my journals. I want to bring my deepest thoughts to the grave. I want my dress to be electric blue or sunset red. Motif? Gray and blue. Or red and gray. I want red, yellow and white roses. No ugly bouquet of huge lilies and birds of paradise. With the grand death plans I have, the greatest nightmare would be to die in my sleep.—**Sigh, 21, DECS**

I would like to die several times while I'm alive so that I could earn immortality. Life is an eternal return of the same.—**Iago, 18, Nietzsche wannabe**

Either I choke on a diamond while eating something white—pasta, rice or something—or pass out after 10 straight days of just eating chocolates at home—*talagang* death by chocolate. I want the food to taste wonderful at my funeral. Fiesta style."—**Steph, 23, chef**

Like a character in Sandman, I want my death to be blissful. I want to be making love with a gorgeous sexy woman, and just when we're about to reach orgasm, I want several elephants to trample us to death together.—**Max, 19, DLSU**

Naka-spacesuit *tapos pakakawalan ako sa* space.—**Daniel, 25, editor**

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October brings in the SCREAMS

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S the month when masks, candles, costumes and other spooky stuff mushroom all over. The cinemas are definitely not an exception, based on the number of horror flicks currently being shown and that are coming soon.

The following are just some of the movies that will surely fill the month with screams.

Inner Senses

The phenomenal "The Ring" started a series of Asian horror flicks that focused on unfinished business, creepy haunting and acceptance.

The new flick on the block is "Inner Senses" directed by Lo Chi Leung. It is the story of Yan Cheung, a troubled woman whose parents divorced when she was 12, both remarried and immigrated.

Sadako's counterpart in "Inner Senses" is a short-haired schoolgirl in uniform (think mischievous T.A.T.U. member) whose head is covered with stitches, half of which is greatly lacerated. She moves mechanically, with every movement accompanied by a rusty mechanical sound, flashes a grin most of the time and likes waving a lot.

The first chunk of the movie can be too dragging for most, but the final minutes of the movie is a suspense-filled finale that brings in the screams and the goosebumps. It is so entertaining that it makes one forget all the movie's bad parts.

The Trek

This Asian movie is all about a group of elephant enthusiasts who enter the jungle in search of a mysterious elephant.

When an army of centipedes attacks a member, the group hesitates to continue. Eventually, though, they proceed with their search and lose more companions in the process.

Laughable computerized effects litter the predictable movie, and with characters named Air, Kong, Tong and Thong, plus actors who resemble Eric Fructuoso, VJ Utt and Sarah Geronimo, one can't help but let out a giggle from time to time.

A complete waste of P60 and two hours of anyone's life, this movie is plain horrible.

Underworld

Starring Kate Beckinsale as the vampire Selene and "Felicity"'s Scott Speedman as the werewolf Michael Corvin, "Underworld" tells of the blood feud between their two camps.

With applause-inducing boots, black leather and gothic gowns, it's a visually stimulating flick with lots of jumps, gunshots and werewolf transformations. Makeup and prosthetics are standing-ovation worthy, while the digital effects are amazingly entertaining, even if they instantly remind you of "The Lord of the Rings."

Rob Zombie's House of 1,000 Corpses

This tells the story of a bunch of teenagers who, due to very bad luck, become prisoners in a house full of professional lunatics.

Generously peppered with visually stimulating inserts, the movie has been reported to contain very disturbing scenes that, thanks to the snipping powers-that-be, have been deleted. The cuts are very obvious, and they somewhat ruin the movie. They also leave the audience confused many times.

Same old story minus the gory scenes, Rob Zombie's movie brings out the zzzz's.

Bidding the world goodbye . . .

From page D1

I would like to die in my sleep or in a gun battle while monitoring schools in war-torn areas for my work. Either way, I'd like to be cremated with my ashes spread at the Manila Observatory.—**Katcons, 21, DECS**

I don't want to die. I'll live forever. But if I'm going to have a funeral, I want it to be a hippie commune. *Gusto ko sa* mountains, *sa mga* green fields. *Ayoko naka*-black *yung mga tao, gusto ko lahat sila naka*-'70s outfit. *Tapos magli*-light *sila ng* candles and they have to think of one nice thing about me, but they don't have to say it. *Tapos* they will scatter my ashes.—**Rachelle, 21, freelancer.**

I want to die defending my young. And *yung* funeral would be like *yung sa* 'Magnifico'.—**Cris, 22, 2bU! correspondent**

I want to die penniless in a gutter and I want to be famous posthumously so that people will say "S--t! She was such a great person but we didn't notice her!" *Tapos* they would play a video of me, *mala*-"My Life" and people would be forced to say nice things about me. I don't want it to be sad. I want to be remembered as a misunderstood artist. Like the song "I Wanna Go Down in a Blaze of Glory"—burn, baby, burn!—**Sam Marcelo, 22, UP Diliman**

Simple lang, hindi masyadong ma-drama. Minsan gusto ko nga in my sleep *eh. Wala, hindi ka na gigising, mapapa*-smile *ka na lang. Parang yung girl sa* Ally Mcbeal *na may* lover whom she could only see in her dreams, *yung ayaw na niyang mabuhay, gusto nya ma*-coma *na lang siya* forever. For the funeral, *madaming* flowers. *Pero ayoko nung korona, gusto ko yung maliliit lang na* flower vase.—**Tata, 21, soon-to-be ex-bum**

I want a real-life Tom Cruise vampire to bite me, he and Brad Pitt can take turns. We'll spend our afterlives together, traveling the world.—**Mia, 24, grade school teacher**

In my sleep, dreaming about Edward Norton. That's a sure sign that I'm going to heaven! I want the wake to be in a café, where everyone would be wearing violet or green. Flowers would be in topiary arrangements, and people would be served crinkles, brownies, oatmeal cookies, goodies that I used to make.—**Vanessa, 21, pharmacist**

I want to die while eating Chinese food with all my friends. I'd choke on a piece of dumpling while we were laughing over a nostalgic experience in high-school. The joke may be on me, but at least I got everything that I love during my last moments on earth. My funeral has to happen in a cliff overlooking the beach. My ashes would be put in a balloon and someone special and good at aiming would spear the balloon, the ash would enter everybody's eyes and that would be the last they'd see of me. —**Giorjean, 21, frustrated writer**

I'd leave a suicide note saying "I don't want to live in such an unbiblical world that preaches hate and persecutes people who are different." I'd leave all the money I have so I they can use it for the gay and lesbian cause. I want everyone attending my funeral to be required to go to a Human Rights or Aids Awareness workshop.—**Ryan, 25, gay advocate**

I don't really care how I die as long as by then, I should have done enough to get high schools named after me. And I wouldn't mind a 21-gun salute at the funeral. —**Ish, 21, Mass Com**

I want to die saving someone else. The funeral should be full of white and pink roses with my collection of pictures posted everywhere.—**Mimi, 21, Shangri-La Plaza**

I want to die sleeping with my better half of old age. *Yung* you won't wake up *na lang*. Then I want my funeral done in a beach and the ashes thrown at the sea. —**Ria, 21, med student**

Gusto kong maranasan lahat ng klase ng death. *Basta gusto ko 'pag mayroon na akong naiwan na bakas. Gusto ko yung lamay ko puro* artists, *tsaka mauuna akong mamatay kaysa sa kanilang lahat. Sa* funeral, *may kantahan, may* program, *may* poetry reading.—**Maki, 26, Mindstorm**

I want to die of old Age and I want the funeral to be intimate, somewhere where it can be solemn and my family can find closure in letting me go. —**Trixie, 25, secretary**

I don't want to be able to choose my death. *Para yang kiliti.* It won't really be as exciting if you know it's coming. I just want death to come and surprise me in a happy moment. Or in a situation I want out of. Then for my tombstone, they can write "someone who loved life—most of the time."—**Jigs, 22, ADMU**

I want to die jumping off a cliff or letting go of a glider. And it will be like "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon," they just won't find my body.—**Dexter, 18, DLSU**

I want to die together with my girlfriend, *ala*-Romeo and Juliet. And then for the funeral they can rent out Shakesperean costumes and live out the play.—**Kai, 20, UP Diliman**

I want to die reaching Mother Teresa's status. It's okay if I'm just buried on ice, I won't feel it.—**Kitch, 24, soon-to-be-saint**

Sudden death, *para hindi masakit. Ayoko rin ng* old age. I want to die while *painting, sa harap ng* canvas. The painting I would be working on would be the last piece of my exhibit—*para* sensational *yung* show. *Pwede ring mag*-handpaint *sa* coffin, *pero yung mga* artists *na ka*-contemporary *ko lang* and *malapit sa* subject *ko. Yung mga* serious artists *na* art for a cause. *Tapos susunugin para* performance art *sa* exhibit.—**Thom, 28, artist/painter**

Basta hindi lonely and prolonged *ang* pain, *mabilis*, no drowning or burning.—**Olive, 19, *ang malupit na encanto ng mariposa* Cubao**

Having sex with 10 Playboy playmates.—**Mico, 22, UPD**

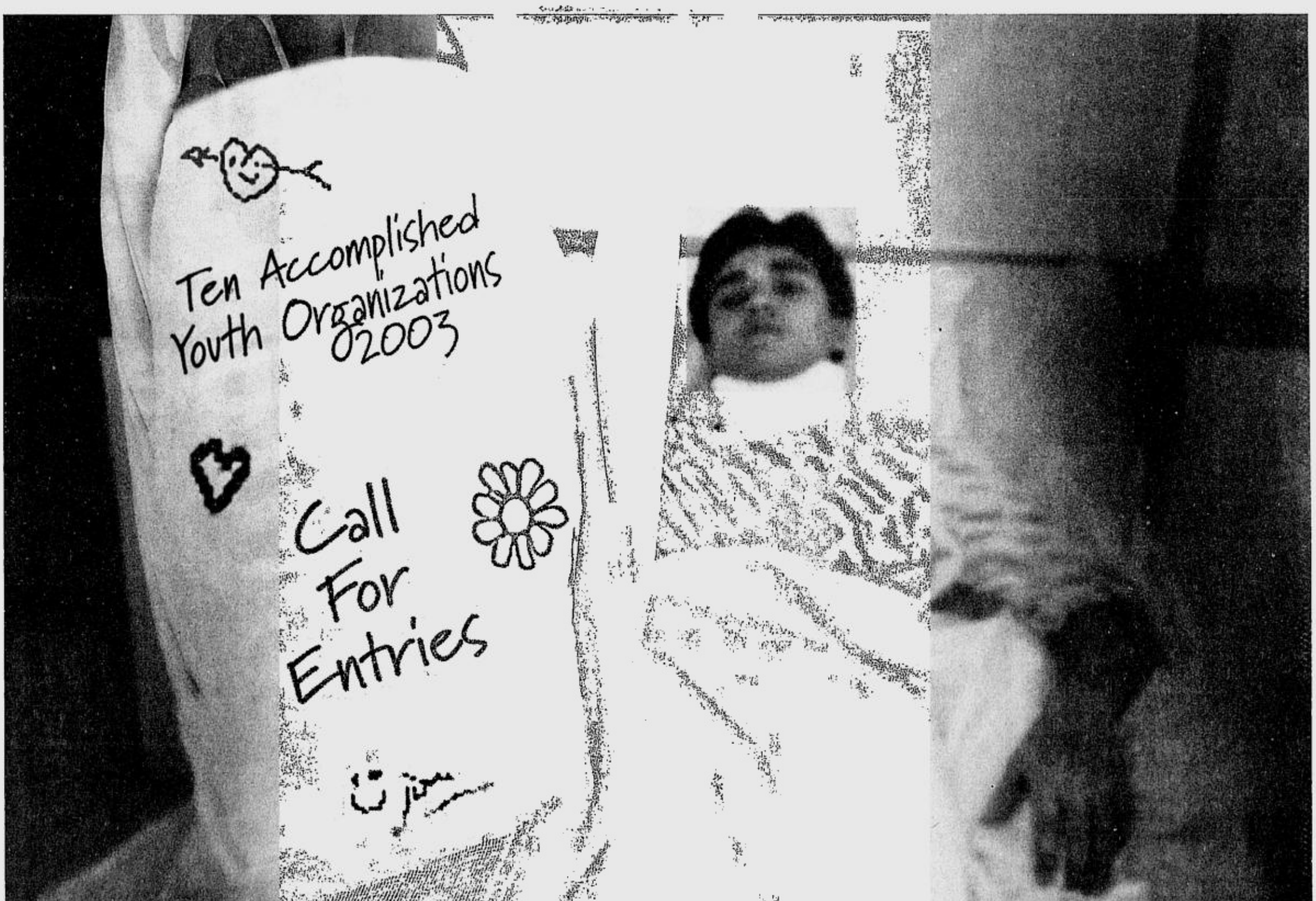
Well, for one, everybody wishes to die the painless way... like you go to bed and die the next day without you noticing it.—**Rich, 20, CSB**

While sleeping.—**Nikka, 20 and Tish, 16; sisters**

I'd like to die in my sleep, in undisturbed slumber and peaceful reverie... Or maybe like Petrarch, who just dropped dead while writing, pen in hand and all.—**Niña, 20, UP Circulo Hispanico prexy**

My family runs a funeral parlor. After witnessing countless funerals and burials, I've realized one important thing: It doesn't matter how you die or what kind of a funeral you have. What matters is how you lived.—**Kate, 22, ADMU**

With reports from John Claude Pagdanganan



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Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations TAYO

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A death in the family

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I WAS all of 13 years old. I was juggling the twin hurdles of puberty and high school, my body was growing faster than my skin and I was barely a month into my freshman year, when I was awakened by my aunt one morning, her face full of sadness.

My mother had died. The hours and days (and years even) that came after have been an unreal blur.

But first things first. I had to have my head shaved. It's a custom followed by Chinoys, since you couldn't have your hair cut for 40 days.

Someone accompanied my two brothers and me to the barbershop, and minutes later, the manicure ladies were murmuring hushed tones of "*Kawawa naman sila*," while my hair fell in clumps on the floor.

When we arrived at the funeral parlor, we were greeted by the sight of Chinese banners expressing messages of commiseration strung across the hall.

People who were already there didn't quite know how to look at us. The smell of incense smoke, wilting flowers, sweat and perfume of visitors combined into a heady, sickly sweet mixture in the air. My head spun.

Saccharine

The next few days were filled with so many people coming and going, gingerly offering their soft condolences, pronouncing the word as only we Pinoys could: "*kondolens*." I began to revile the word and the saccharine tone with which it was always delivered.

My siblings and I went to a Catholic school, and they sent over a priest to say Mass. My mother had turned into a Born-Again Christian before she died, and her group also sent over a pastor or whatever he was called.

My relatives, of course, had Chinese monks and nuns coming over as well to chat and pray. All I could think of back then was, thank heavens they didn't all come on the same day!

I didn't know if it was okay to think of funny things when someone had just died, but there I was. I suppose it's one of the mind's coping mechanisms.

Now, I sometimes recall the internment day as filled with clouds. But, other times, I remember how hot the sun was. I'm not sure anymore how it really was.

I do remember how my sister almost wasn't allowed to attend. She was born on the year of the monkey, and apparently, for that particular day people born under certain birth animals weren't allowed to join in things like burials.

But if there's one thing I've learned about Chinese customs, it's that there is always a loophole. So they simply had my sister turn her back on the funeral procession at the gates of the cemetery. Problem solved.

I had never seen nor heard so many people crying, but there was something I saw that was more surreal than that. Someone had been hired to videotape the ceremony! No one had told me about it, and part of me wanted to strangle the guy.

I don't know if videotaping funerals still happens now, but it had to be one of the craziest things I'd ever seen in my entire life. Eons from now, if for some reason the archives of the National Geographic's documentaries on death are ever destroyed, archeologists who need to study the funeral rituals of Chinoys can come to my house and dig that tape up.

After they slid my mother's coffin into its concrete niche, they started burning paper effigies of a house, a car and other representations of worldly pleasures. This was to ensure that my mom would have all these things in the afterlife.

Then, being the eldest child, I was tasked to hold my mom's portrait in my scrawny arms and was whisked into a car. I was made to sit in front, my family in the back. We were promptly driven off to a Chinese temple, leaving everyone behind.

Historical tour

I had stored these memories in my mind, but they rattled noisily again when I recently took a historical and architectural walking tour of the La Loma, Chinese and North cemeteries.

During the tour, which I wrote about in detail for the November issue of (shameless plug) MTV Ink, our tour guide began recounting some Chinese burial customs that made me think back.

I was left wondering how my siblings, cousins and I—our generation—would handle things when the time comes for us to deal with our other loved ones' deaths.

No one explains things like death rituals and customs to you. I even impishly thought that one day maybe I could write a manual of sorts and earn a lot of money from it. A Chinoy Book of the Dead, so to speak. No first draft yet.

Despite the lighter moments of the wake, I also remember how deeply overwhelming everything was. How angry, lost, sad, scared and frightened I felt, sometimes sliding from one emotion to the other, sometimes straddling all at the same time.

How irritating it was to have all these strangers intrude on such a personal tragedy, telling you what to do and what not to do. And not being able to just grieve in your own space and on your own terms.

Years went by, and I eventually learned the value of ritualized grieving and the five steps of dealing with trauma. I began to slowly appreciate what I had gone through, with maturity and logical thought slowly easing the confused heart.

I have also learned to appreciate how time erodes the hard edges of painful memories into fuzzy, mute images, and that one no longer has to remember with clarity and vividness whenever one thinks back.

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com

The hours and days and years that came after my mother left us have been an unreal blur

Is there such a thing as destiny?

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mahino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

Is there such a thing called destiny? I had a boyfriend for six years, and then we got separated. Then I met someone after several months that became my boyfriend for three years. We got separated because of my ex-boyfriend. I saw him again, and I felt I still loved him. My friends say my ex-boyfriend is my destiny. There's a saying that if you are meant for each other, then wait for the right time. I know that this is the right time for us.

KAYE

I am a staunch believer in destiny. Every time it's part of any conversation, I whip out my pom-poms and do cartwheels and somersaults.

Some people say that there is no destiny, that one should not float in the sea and just let the wind take you wherever it pleases. These beings say that we should be more active in pursuing our dreams and goals in life.

The other camp, however, believes that people can choose to do anything or nothing and whatever ensues is what is called destiny.

Now, enough of my "*tatlong beintesingko*" and on to the advice.

I give you canned applause for breaking up with your boyfriend. What is the sense, anyway, of sticking up with someone if you are still in love with someone else from the past? However, such a move doesn't assure you of a together-again scene (you're in the beach with arms wide open, running toward one another, in slow-mo) with your ex. Your first ex, I mean, since you now have two exes.

If you really believe in destiny, don't just believe in the good stuff. Believe in the possibility of a reunion, but also be open about the equal chance of your first ex not wanting to get back with you just because you're single again.

Whatever happens, whether you choose to actively do things or actively do nothing, now that's destiny. So pursue, and be open.

MARK

Isn't it funny how things begin to look as if they were destined to happen only after they had actually happened? I mean, with the idea of destiny being about the future and all, it's ironic how hope really feeds off the past.

I've got nothing against people who believe in destiny since I still can't figure out where I stand in the whole "free will vs fate" debate. But to be practical, I'd advise you not to assume anything—or too much—and instead, accept things as they come.

Think of it as a soap plot cliffhanger: Your ex has come back. You still love him. You leave your current boyfriend... then what? There's nothing else you can be sure of, because there are a number of possible endings.

The good thing here, though, is that in your love story, you don't have a target market to satisfy except yourself, and there is no creative consultant who would trash your idea of the perfect ending. There's only your ex's own free will to contend with, and that is what you have to face.

SEPTEMBER

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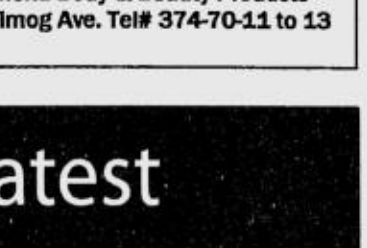

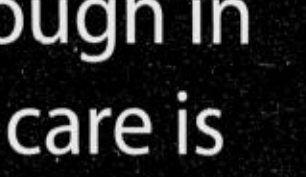

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ROCK AND ROYALTY. Greenbelt's Halloween Ball

DUSIT OR INTERCON? Your choice of party.

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Of masques and masquerades

Where to go for your Halloween party fix

"I WANNA party like it's 1999," sang **Prince**, that gender-bending icon of the generation known for its excess and pleasure principles.

Tim Yap

Yup, we all long for those moments—when we enter a bar without knowing anyone, and we just go with the flow. Close our eyes and party like no one's looking. We keep these memories in our pockets—we want that 5 a.m., 1999 feel of invincibility. The sun is up and we still feel like going, and going, and going ... Onwards to the after-party, and so on.

It's 2003 now and all of a sudden, Prince's eyeliner antics make us yawn—nothing shocks us anymore as monsters become more endearing as ever. Emily Strange, Stitch, Shrek and Hagrid are all lovable creatures we'd love to have at home. All of a sudden, the myths that used to surround our spooky skeletons have turned into the Care Bears.

And there is a whole rainbow of events out there to satisfy your Halloween itch. You've got your Halloween costume planned (if you haven't, check out Maui and Jason's last-minute costume guide—you've got two days to prepare), but you've got nowhere to go. Get out of that basement and hop into the haunting trail.

Rock and royalty

Tomorrow is reserved for "Metro Wear"—the biggest gathering of designers and fashionistas this side of the ABS-CBN planet. The Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines' brightest stars and their flock will congregate at Studio 10 for this year's most fab fashion gala.

After you get your Metro pass, that's the only time you can head over to the other Hallow's Eve happenings around town come Thursday.

For A-list hip-hoppers, it's Azzurro at Somerset Hotel. True-blue R&B aficionados should also hop over to Studio 23's Halloween Ball with **Shortkut** at The Loft in Rockwell.

If you feel your dance fix ain't about raising the roof, go va-va-voom with vamps and villains at V bar, where you can swing to Scrambled Edge's beat.

Or you can go to the NBC Tent, where Joey 92.3 is throwing its annual bash, with a parade of masks that will make Venice blush. Make sure you come in the masquerade theme—you might just end up flying KLM all the way to Italy.

But don't party too hard. Remember, Friday is still the big night. The third level of Greenbelt 3 is where the action is: a dozen establishments, 10 DJs and five ethereal bands in one night of delicious debauchery.

Greenbelt's "Rock and Royalty" Halloween Ball is one of the city's longest-running seductive soirees, where everybody shows up dressed or undressed, to impress. The open bar starts at 9 p.m., so come early.

Beer-tequila masquerade

So walk the walk and start your parade, before you hop over to anywhere else. You might just win the free use of the ultra-exclusive MyCinema for you and your your best-dressed friends. Other prizes include cell phones from Globe Gentxt and overflowing Johnnie Walker.

Nearby, Hotel InterCon has the Miss Earth beauties doing their costume parade—"Heaven on Earth." The beauties will be peaking to the sounds of DJs **Jon Herrera** and **Robby Mananquil**.

At Dusit, it's a beer banquet as the "Oktoberfest Masquerade" takes place at Fiesta San. Miguel starting at 8 p.m.

After all that beer and scotch, you're fully warmed up to go to the all-nighter Halloween extravaganza—it's either you bump and grind with bodies at the Cream Halloween Ball at the NBC Tent or you pick yourself (or if nobody does it the other way around, they pick you) in the middle of Malate.

The district will have the Pinoy-themed party "Maligno" where you can ledge-dance with **JR Isaac**. You can chug Jose Cuervo, and then hop on to Bed with **Jay Santos**. By this time, make sure your masks are already stripped, because it's bound to get hot there.

There are even more after-parties happening all over the city (many hotels are booked), but you'd have to find that out by yourself. That's when you can really knock three times and scream, "Trick or treat!"

MISS EARTH beauties partying before Halloween

SOUND DENIM. Robby Mananquil and Kristine Uy of Lee

JAY R pleases the crowd with his R&B crooning at a Cosmo bash.

HALLOWEEN is going to be one big peep show.

RAYA IN LION CITY

This week sees our favorite ramp diva, Raya Mananquil, leave for Singapore. The Elite Model Look regional heads have handpicked her to represent the Philippines in the famous tilt. They couldn't have chosen a better Miss Philippines. The 21-year-old Folded & Hung endorser is undergoing intensive training with director Ariel Lozada. The competition is slated Nov 8. I am sure she will make our country proud.

SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Parting is such costly sorrow

Since the expenses that follow a death are almost as painful, we need to be prepared for them

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT is the cost of death?

Imagine a person who constantly lived his life free from debt. One day, he dies in an accident and his family, still hurting from the loss, is confronted with a ton of bills—autopsy reports, funeral expenses and burial payments.

Scary as this may seem, we know it can happen to any of us.

While families of the departed mourn, some see the situation as a business opportunity. Funeral parlors and burial services vary in levels of sensitivity, empathy and even callousness.

What can we expect? The daily incidence of death, not only in the Philippines but all

PARTING/ E3

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ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are quick-thinking and bright. You have strong communication skills. You are interested in the society around you—politically, socially and culturally. You are very caring about family and friends. You take pride in learning your craft well. The year ahead could be one of the most fortunate, powerful years of your life.
Birthdate of: Winona Ryder, actress; Richard Dreyfuss, actor; Finola Hughes, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel invigorated and strongly purposeful today. Your drive to get things done (as well as your drive for passionate sex) is very strong.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to deal with the public, and even close friends and partners, is fabulous today! This is the day to make important suggestions or to discuss what you want.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a marvelous day to work hard at getting better organized. You have a desire to do this anyway, but today is unusually productive. Don't waste it!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel prankish, flirtatious and playful. You want to have a good time, preferably some fun romance. Good luck. This same energy makes you creative.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for getting a lot done at home. You're in the mood to throw out, clean up, sort and decide what to keep and what to toss.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today and tomorrow, you're forceful in your discussions with others. Today, however, you have more clarity. This is the day to sell, buy, wheel and deal, and persuade. Go to it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day to buy something for yourself to boost your confidence and make you look more powerful to the world. (You feel like Caesar, but, of course, you don't have to buy a toga.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're easy-going and confident today. However, the best results. Others could feel intimidated by your vigorous efforts.

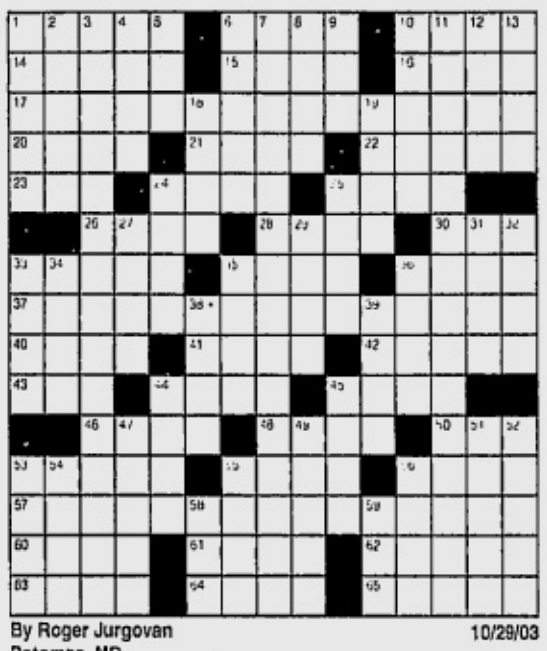
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't start trouble at home because you have great ideas. Just do what you can in your own world. Let others fumble along in theirs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You will star in any kind of group activity today. Without even trying, you're convincing and dynamic. People will do practically whatever you say. (Gads!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have very clear ideas today at work. You have strong thoughts about how money should be spent. Be patient with others who are not so clear.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have lots of energy now, and it needs someplace to go. Any kind of physical activity—jogging, sports, working out, whatever—will benefit you today. Do something physical to burn energy.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD
10/29/03

ACROSS
1 Range
6 Has debts
10 A-F connection
14 Michael Caine film
15 Persian monarch
16 Press
17 Reconcile one's differences
20 Oohs and __
21 Animation frames
22 Itemizes
23 Charlemagne's realm: abbr.
24 Brit's slammer
25 Family men
26 FDR's dog
28 Noggin
30 Definite article
33 __ acid
35 Intuited
36 Be __ as it may...
37 This puzzle's theme
40 Highland tongue
41 Mazuma
42 Draconian
43 Fixed
44 Hue
45 Andean nation
46 Small songbird
48 Sacred
50 Large-scale
53 Sir __ Newton
55 Dynamic beginning?
56 Drunkard
57 By any means available
60 Curvy molding
61 Bench or bucket
62 "Have Gun Will Travel" star
63 Ancient ointment
64 Loathe
65 More rational

DOWN
1 Abraham's wife
2 Unobstructed
3 Highest quality
4 Papal name
5 Auction finish?
6 Bone: pref.
7 Call to bravery
8 Swallows
9 Keep it quiet!
10 Cleft in two equal parts
11 Burn one's bridges?
12 Clod
13 Scrimmage anchors
18 Sports org.
19 Dash
24 Rounded lump
25 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" character
27 Baxter or Bancroft
29 Otherwise
31 Toppers
32 Use acid to create art
33 Surefire shooters
34 Additional
35 Custard tart
36 Old ruler
38 Related (to)
39 Milk byproduct
44 Part of MIT
45 Conspire
47 Sped
49 Hold forth
51 Idiotic
52 One past recovery
53 PC image
54 Heroic tale
55 On the Atlantic
56 Hold your horses!
58 Silvery gray color
59 Natl. TV network

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	C	A		L	A	B	S		S	T	A	L	E
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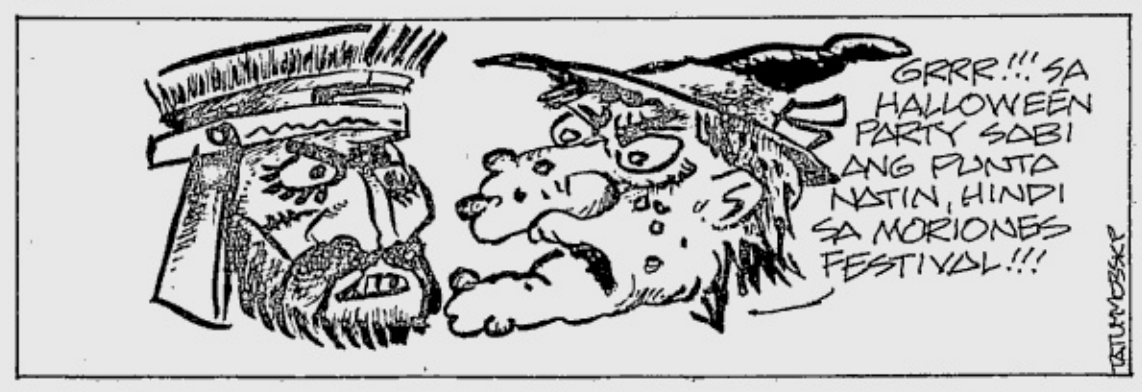


Parting is such costly sorrow

From page E1

over the world, screams revenue for some enterprising people. Besides, somebody has to do it.

Hence, since the expenses that follow a death are almost as painful, whether we like it or not, we need to be prepared.

The traditional burial, with a long wake and elaborate last rituals, is common among Filipinos. The older generation, especially, has an attachment to earthly bodies, believing that a proper burial helps a soul move on more peacefully.

The modern generation, on the other hand, welcomes cremation, or burning the dead's body, for more practical reasons. Both procedures are legally accepted, but vary widely in costs.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Casket packages

Expenses differ on the type of casket chosen by the family members for their dead.

The cheapest one is made of wood and can range from P20,000-P60,000. A semi-metal casket would come at around P40,000 to P90,000. Stainless metal costs P85,000 and up, and imported ones are between P250,000 and P650,000.

Solid brass coffins are the most expensive at a minimum of P850,000.

Coffins come with a package which includes embalming, makeup, processing of necessary documents such as the death certificate, the use of a hearse for delivering the body to the cemetery, and for some parlors, three to five days' viewing in specific rooms in the funeral house, and the flower car.

For packages that do not include viewing rooms for the wake, some areas in the parlor may be rented at between P3,000 and P5,000 per day, depending on the size and type.

Flowers cost between P500 and P5,000, again depending on the kind, source, size and arrangement.

The small bush of greens at the side of the coffin, known as the garden, cost a little higher, running at a minimum of P1,500 and a maximum of P8,000. Some funeral packages already cover this.

Taking the coffin to the cemetery for either burial or cremation entails additional transportation expenses. While some funeral homes already take care of the hearse, some require an extra P5,000 for it.

Also, people who attend the wake on the last day may also need transportation. The family must be ready for this incidental cost. It is advisable to rent a van, a jeepney or a mini-bus if the family expects a lot of people to be transported to the cemetery. Rentals range from P1,000-P2,000.

The family must also commission police escorts, or *hagad,* to facilitate traffic and ensure security during the procession. Usually, two or three escorts would do. Each *hagad* is paid between P700 and P1,200, depending on the distance and number of vehicles or persons to be escorted.

Burial grounds

If the family chooses a traditional burial, arrangements for the cemetery lot should have been done in advance. Regular lots are usually sized at 6.1-6.5 sq m and may cost between P45,000 and P300,000, depending on the location and the cemetery, while mausoleums can go up to P4,000,000.

Some recommend that lots be bought beforehand, so the family holds the title to the piece of land. In such cases where the dead must share a lot with another deceased family member, cemeteries generally charge P18,000-P25,000 for the burial alone, and an extra P2,000 for exhuming the previous occupant.

Owing to the huge expense involved in acquiring the small patch of land alone, cemeteries generally allow installments. However, the full amount should have been paid before the actual burial. (While this may sound harsh, it's actually the way the business goes.)

The lot is not the only thing to settle when opting for a burial. Tombstone makers, or the people in charge of creating the *lapida,* and grave diggers also spell additional expenses.

A *lapida* can be priced at between P700 and P5,000, depending on the type of materials used and the design engraved on it. For instance, one made of Italian marble costs P3,000.

Grave diggers, who will also serve as niche watchers, also collect a fee of P500 to P2,000 each.

An extra charge of between P7,000 and P15,000 is needed if the family wants the niche to be sandwashed.

Cash in ashes

Now if the family opts for cremation, the standard price for the service is around P9,500, which will be attended to by the funeral parlor.

Crematoriums are generally situated within cemeteries, so there still is a need to bring the casket to the memorial park.

Some crematoriums burn the coffin with the dead. However, there are others who advise that the coffin be excluded to hasten the procedure. Some families choose to donate the coffin to charities instead.

The total price varies on the type of urn used to keep the dead's ashes. One made of Romblon marble would cost P2,800-P3,000, one made of stainless steel would be around P16,000 and one made of brass would reach P65,000.

These urns have standard designs. If the family opts for a more unique design to the urn, this can be custom-made outside and may even come cheaper than the usual ones. Some urns sold at Chinatown reportedly reach as low as P500 and have very intricate and individualistic designs.

The family can also post the person's death on the obituary section of daily broadsheets. The funeral parlor may assist in this, or the section may be contacted directly. Prices depend on space, ranging from P2,000 to P50,000.

Memorial plans

The list can go on to cover food, tent rentals and other expenses. This is why it is best if the deceased has prepared for his or her demise via a memorial plan.

Premiums for such plans may be staggered in five or 10-year installments and paid every quarter or half-year. Owning a memorial plan definitely eases the costs that may shock us upon a sudden incidence of death.

A burial package may also be upgraded if the original plan only covered little. In some cases, people borrow death insurance plans from other people and pay them after, just to offset the surge of bills.

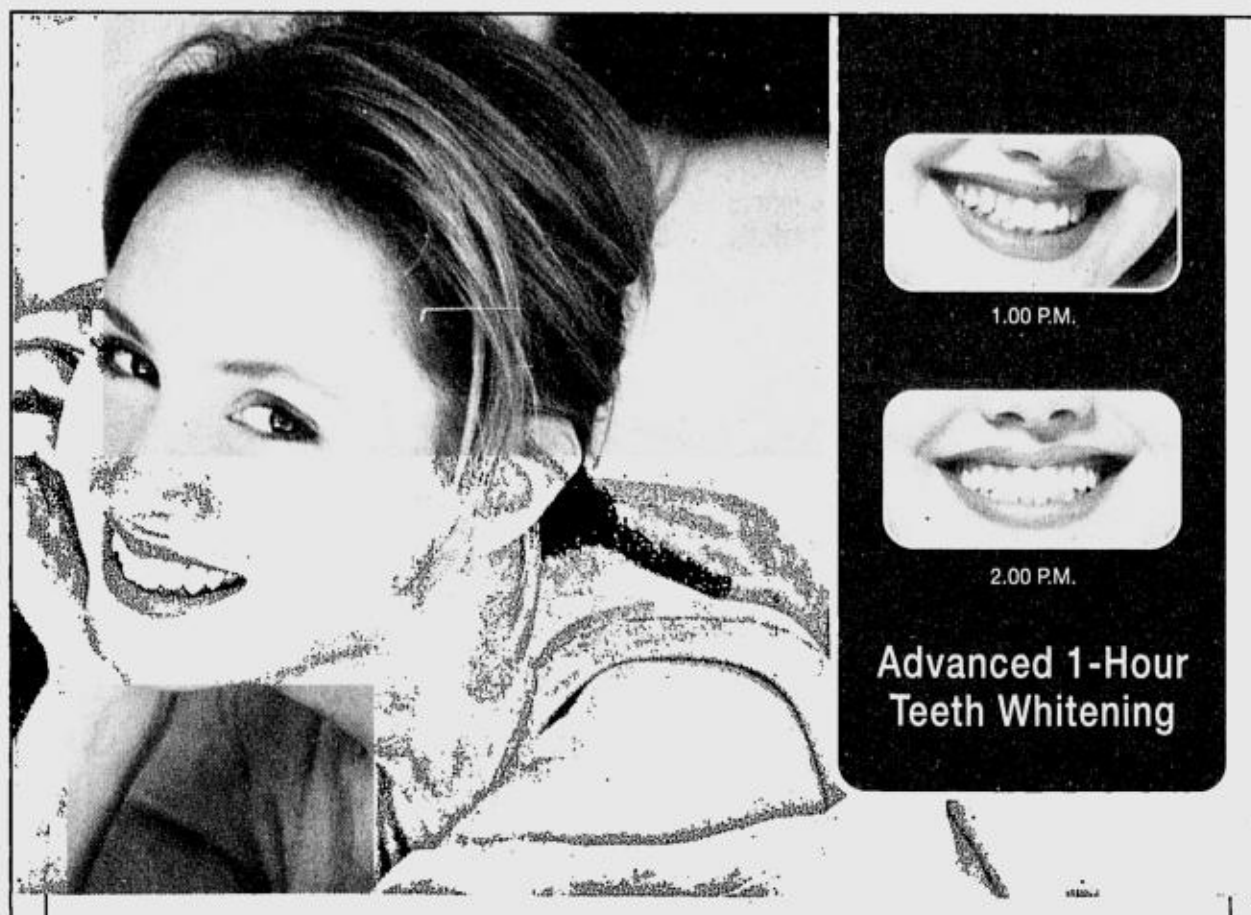
After discovering how much is spent on funeral services, it won't come as a surprise if we begin to get scared of dying for financial reasons.

However, we must all accept that death is inevitable, and it's never the person's fault if it comes at a cost. Funerals are necessary for us to deal with the loss of a loved one. It is the time when we get to retrace our steps and reflect on the many good things the departed had been to us.

We should think of preparing for death not as a burden, but as a celebration of life.

We must all accept that death is inevitable, and it's never the person's fault if it comes at a cost

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com



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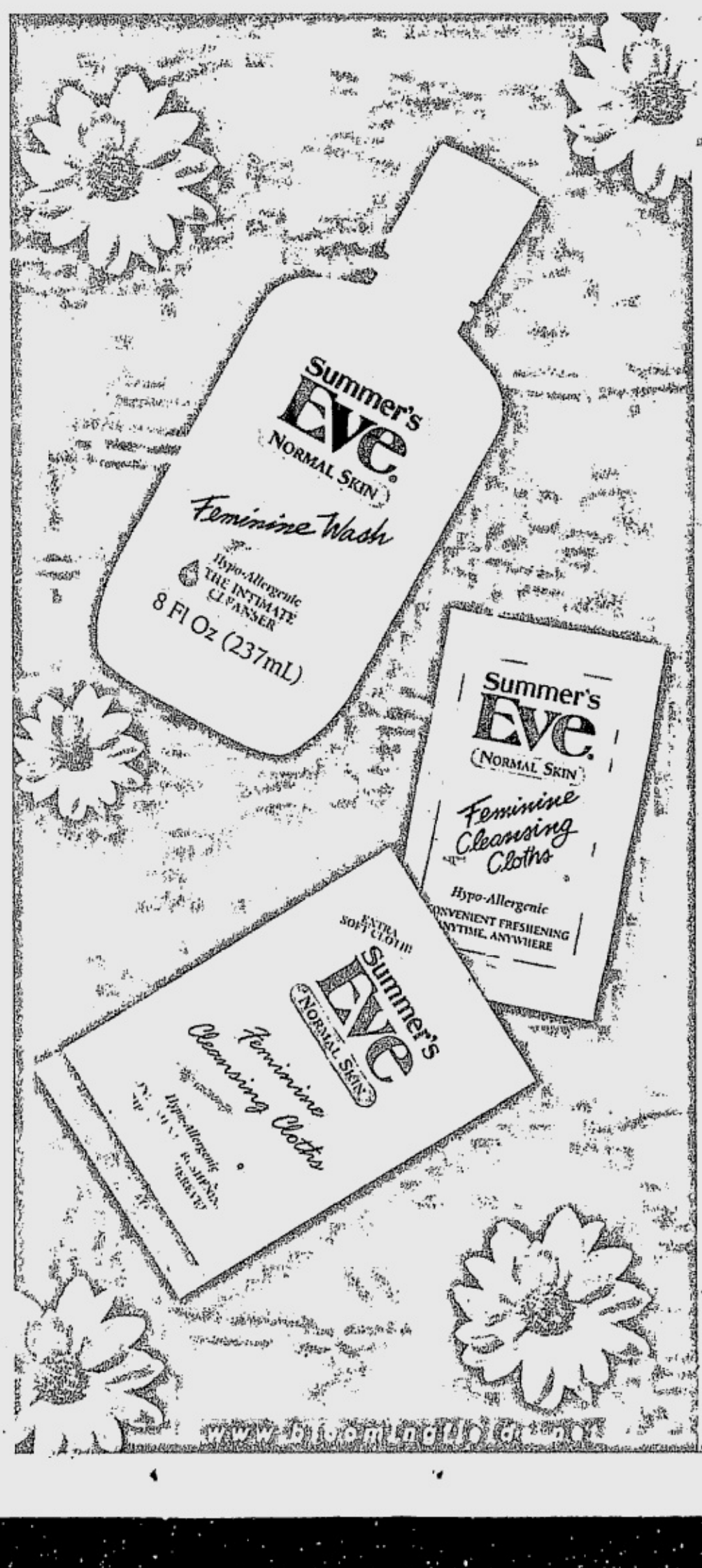

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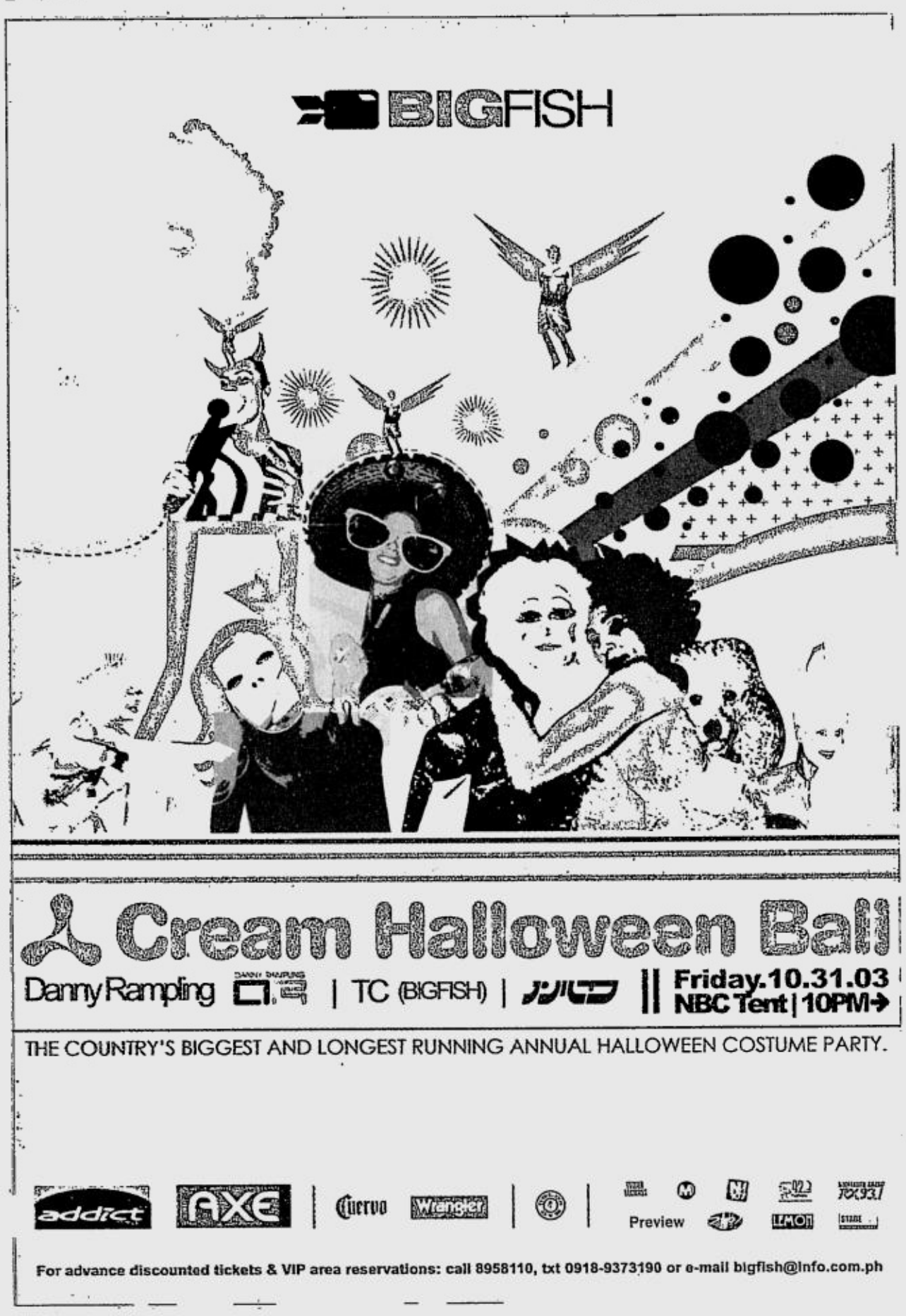


Horror music . . . live!

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

ALL I know about classical music, I heard from the cartoons that I watched growing up. I know all the music aficionados out there are now cringing and beating their breasts in frustration. Don't worry, at least I know how to pronounce Chopin. Smile.

Also, thanks to Ballet Philippines' production of "Icons," I now know the title of a certain piece of music often used in horror and suspense films, usually in apocalyptic scenes where humankind perishes in a huge fireball. This piece of music was most recently used in the opening scene of MTV's 'Jackass: The Movie."

"Icons" went onstage at the Main Theater of the CCP and featured the Philippine Madrigal Singers and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. The first act was filled with lighthearted song and dance, with the Madrigals singing three compositions and the dancers performing two pieces with the orchestra. Tony Fabella's choreography of "Bahay Kubo Atbp." was by turns funny and solemn, but always celebratory in tone. It was a great counterpoint to what the audience was to see in the second act: Alice Reyes' choreography of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana."

As the curtains went up, a breathtaking and awesome sight greeted the audience. Rows of choral singers in black robes and yarmulkes flanked the stage as guest conductor Maestro Eugene Castillo raised his baton. The stage revealed towering rock formations with the ballet dancers in formation, veiled with smoke emerging from a central cauldron.

When the music began as the singers hit the first note and the dancers executed their first gesture, you could actually hear gasps from the audience. I was absolutely enthralled. It was a powerful moment that showed how such enduring yet fleeting beauty could be created within the confines of a stage.

Delicious shivers went down my spine as I recognized the music as something I had always heard on TV or in the movies, but never in real life before. It was amazing to hear it for the first time with a full chorus and orchestra. Whenever those kettle drums and cymbals went off together, it was rousing good fun that made my heart quicken.

Assembly

This time around, Ballet Philippines was able to pull off a successful assembly of collaborators. National Artist Salvador Bernal's set, imposing rock formations against a striking backdrop of diagonal lines, elicited a refrain of wows from the ladies seated behind me.

Production supervisor Santiago Galvero's expert rendering of the textures resulted in a simple yet ominous piece.

Castillo was every bit the conductor of my animation memories, with long hair that flapped as he vigorously coaxed and guided the music out of his orchestra and the chorus of singers that included the San Beda College Chorale, University of the East Chorale, Our Lady of Fatima University Chorale, Asian Youth Singing Ambassadors, soprano Maria Katrina Saporsantos, and baritone Ramone Acoymo (alternating with Noel Azcona). The cute factor was supplied by the Kilyawan Boys Choir filling the box seats in their schoolboy glory.

The text of the music was taken from the poems of 13th century wandering students of England, France and Germany known as the Goliards. It's interesting and hilarious to note that the Goliards were known more for their shenanigans and tomfoolery like getting drunk, gambling, and rioting.

The music, voices, text and set laid the groundwork for the dancing. Dark and brooding choreography started the piece, but as the movements progressed, it also showcased intimate, graceful scenes, as well as some definitely Bacchanalian displays of eroticism and a finale filled with hope and renewal.

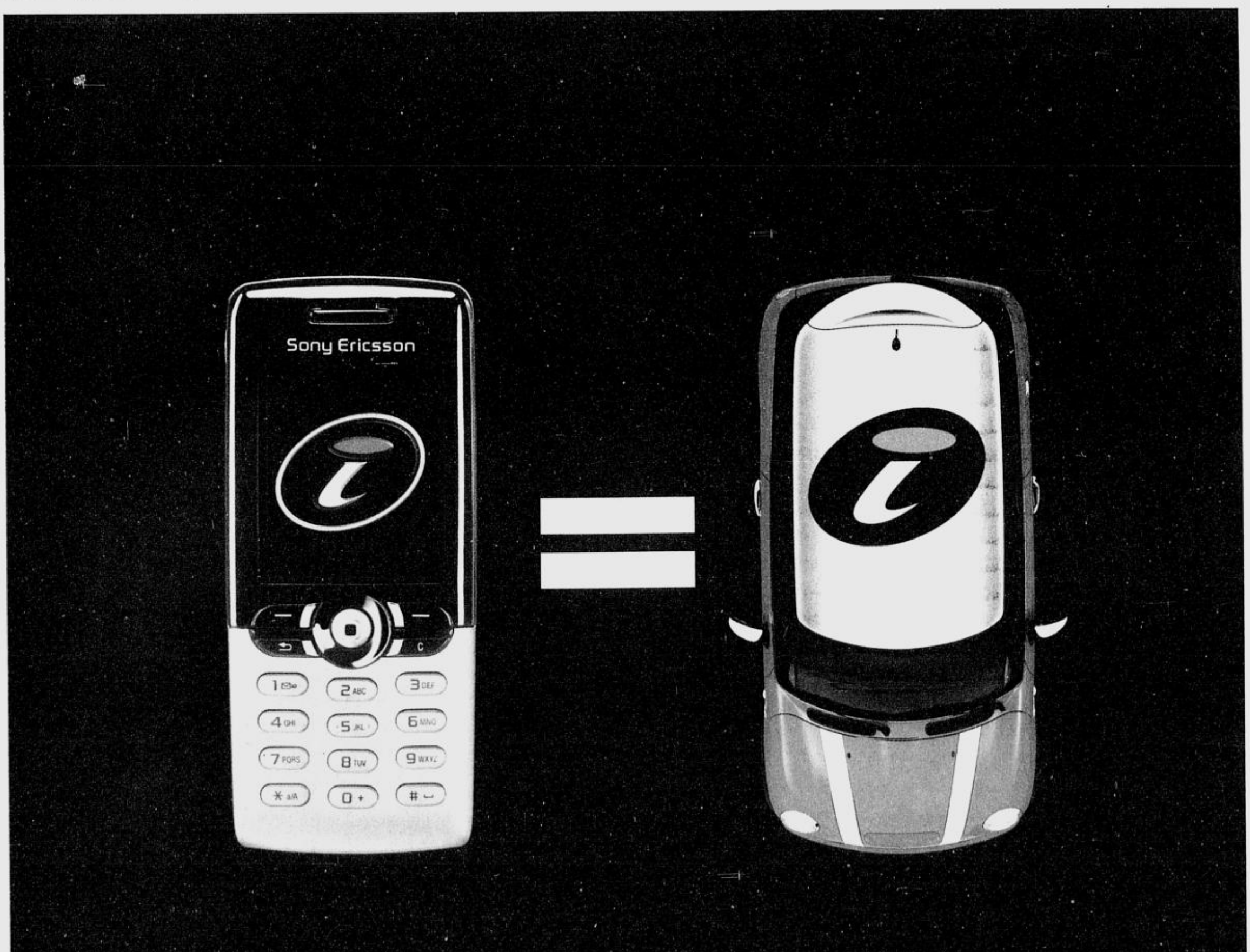
Lighting designer Jonjon Villareal's simple colors and subtle light changes effectively complemented and heightened emotions onstage.

Re-stager Ida Beltran-Lucilla must have certainly had her hands full resurrecting the dance steps that were first performed way back in 1974, eons before I was even born. Her efforts were not for naught, the dancers filled the theater with their massive energy and graceful legwork.

Notable was Kris-Belle Paclibar. This young lady who played the title role in last month's Darna imbued so much anguish and torment into her role that it was almost painful to watch.

Only one thing was disappointing about this production. The lack of warm bodies in the seats was appalling. How can a show involving three well-known performing companies and the Cultural Center of the Philippines not have an audience?

What a disservice to the performers! The music onstage sounded hauntingly alluring. But the same music had also been used in countless horror movies, and this horror seemed to echo from the failure of the organizers and their marketing people to fill empty seats. The music therefore was apocalyptic.



LIFESTYLE

Quick Halloween costume fixes

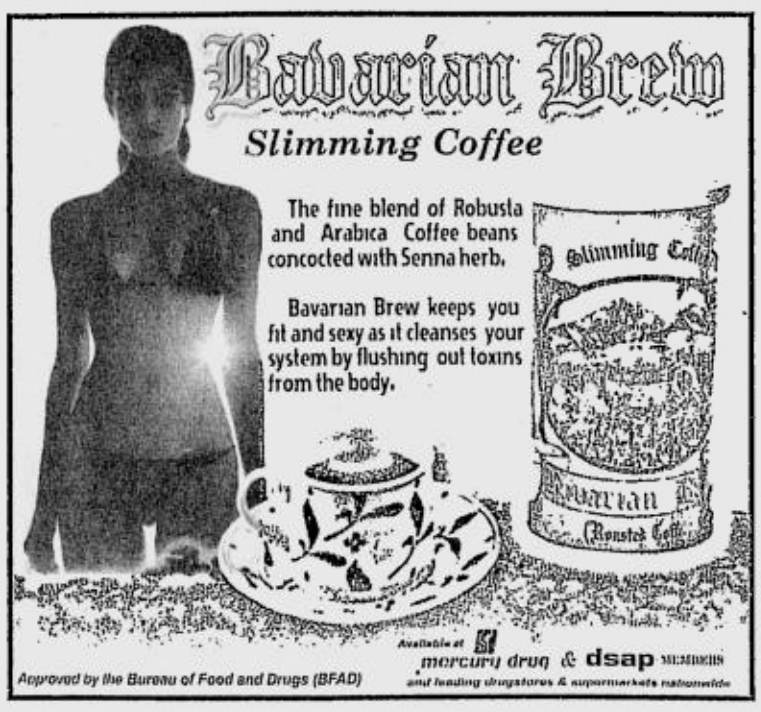
By Maui Reyes
and Jason Doplito

SO YOU haven't prepared for this year's Halloween party. Shame on you. But that doesn't mean you should resort to last year's costume (if you didn't dress us last year either, double shame on you!), or going as yourself and proclaiming your costume is "yourself" (that's so passé). Check out 2bU!'s last minute Halloween fix-ups, and may we remind you that next year, plan ahead.

Rock Star—So what if the closest you've gotten to going platinum is playing air guitar in your bedroom? Everybody wants to be a rock star, even though everyone hates them. Bring out your Chuck Taylors/Jack Purcells, neckties, and studded belts. We're pulling a Good Charlotte. And don't forget the smokey make-up and "I don't give a rat's a**" attitude. The latter is very vital.

Barbie—In this materialistic world, dressing up as the pink plastic enemy of feminism is the most subtle satire since chubby mean in

QUICK/ F3



NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Aissa Flores dresses up her tank top and jeans with a sequined bag from the U.S.

THE FASHION FREAKS

Fashion tricks and treats from real people

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

FASHION magazines and celebrities are no longer the only sources of inspiration for style. With an increasing number of people getting more courageous and finding their own fashion identity, the streets of the city are becoming more and more vibrant.

So we stepped down from the fashion pedestal and invaded the sanctuary of the street—and made a head on collision with in-your-face fashion. Nothing styled here, this is as real as real can get.

Clothes are no longer just cover-up. They're playthings, they're pieces of art, they're tools for expression, they are statements. They fulfill that mythology that is our life stories.

The 2bU! Fashion Freaks raided a school fair, an office meeting and the streets of Quezon City for real fashion from real people.

We found funny shirts, scary piercings, 100-peso shoes and a blindingly colorful scarf.

Here's what real people are wearing. Take your cue from them. And watch out for us.

MORE FINDS ON PAGE F2

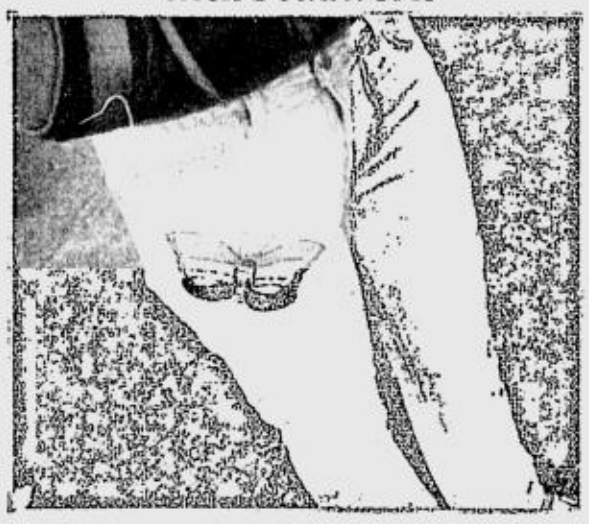
BELIEVE it or not, new correspondent Francine Palines bought this skirt for only P60.

'Ukay' fiends reap major rewards

NEW correspondent Jeffrey Pe Benito shelled out P250 for this trench coat in Baguio.

CLICK your heels three times and off you go to Emerald City. New correspondent Cris Silva got these red shoes for P100.

Dress up your denim with beadwork



GO thigh high with this social butterfly. Mariah Carey may have given the insect a bad name, but who says you can't take it back from her? Abigail Lauchenco's jeans are from Greenhills.

Wear your love for pop culture

CHEW on this, baby. Felice loves logo shirts.

Fashion tricks and treats from real people

We invaded the streets and made a head-on collision with in-your-face fashion. Yup, nothing styled here, folks

Do you want the fashion freaks to visit your store or see you wares? E-mail us at cookiedoughjunkie@yahoo.com

Sometimes, you can buy humor

RUB her tummy for good luck. Maui shows off her P299 shirt from People R People.

Give the peasant blouse a rest

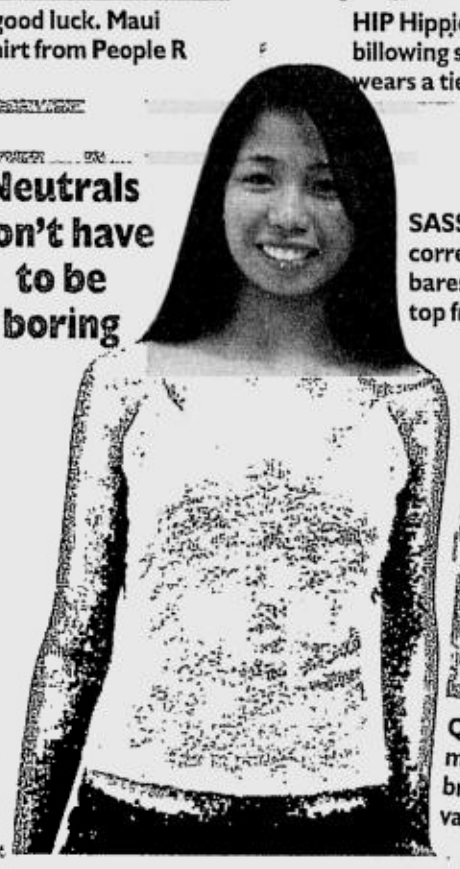
HIP Hippie. Say goodbye to the billowing sleeves. Angeline Sandico wears a tie-dyed top from Greenhills.

Blind th…

THIS rainbow scarf from Topshop looks like it came straight out of a D… Seuss book.

Neutrals don't have to be boring

NO HOBO. New correspondent Samantha Ang displays her Hong Kong find—a sack bag that can carry all her essentials



SASSY GIRL. New correspondent Bianca Consunji bares her shoulders in this tank top from Forever 21.

QUIAPO FIND. This multi-stranded leather bracelet comes in a variety of colors.

Cross boundaries—even in the smallest way

THE EYELET fabric goes manly. This polo from People R People also comes in black.

Fearless fashion

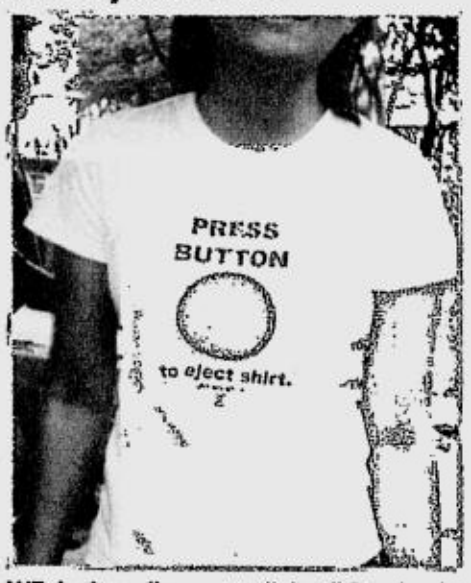
DON'T try this at home. Well, actually he did. Pow did his own tunnel piercing. Scary? Yes. And it looks painful because it is painful. Earring from 1:15

Make accessories your new Lego

PLAY with fashion. Isabella got her adorable watch from Alexis in SM Centerpoint.

Flaunt your wit on your shirt

SHOPAHOLIC and proud of it.



WE don't really want to "eject" Stephanie Lopez's shirt. It's too nice.

The classics will never die

DOC Martens will always be alive. This 8-hole purple shimmer ones can brighten up your old pair of jeans.

Sniff out sales

CRIMSON chic. New correspondent Vanessa Doctor fell in love with this jacket from Karimadon and bought it on discount for P1,200.

STYLISH silver for P1,500. This coat was going for half the price when new correspondent Cris Silva grabbed it off Mango's racks.

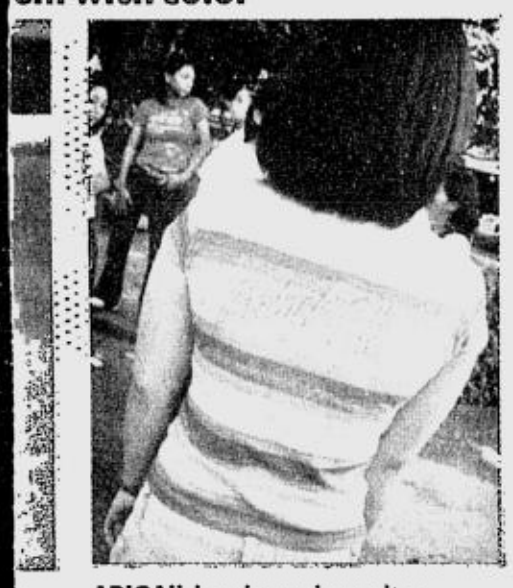
Fire Up the Flavor!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

yer to give life to old pieces

NING how to put your reliable pieces together
eat way to create multiple looks, even with a
d wardrobe. Sweatshirt from Sari-Sari Store
ntage checkered polo from this guy's dad

em with color



ABIGAIL Lauchenco in an ultra-colorful Lee shirt
)r.

Dual-purpose pieces give you twice the value for your money

FASHION transformers. New correspondent Francine Palines models this Mango dress, which can also be worn as a skirt.

Quick Halloween costume fixes

From page F1

leotards and devil horns. Don't wear too much pink-you'll end up looking like Elle Woods-just big, plastic jewelry in loud colors (your mom would have some from the '80s. Don't believe her if she says she doesn't. She's in denial), paired with a short skirt, a tight top, and pumps. Yes, pumps. Wearing stilettos will make you look like a hooker.

Emily the Strange—Perfect for those who hate socializing but were forced to go partying anyway. Make sure your hair's stick straight and cut some bangs. Wear a little black dress, preferably a bit below the knees, and put on sneakers. Now sit in a corner and plaster on a "far away" look on your face. If you must talk, master sarcastic comebacks to pick-up lines. And don't, we repeat, don't smile.

A Tamago Sushi—You'll be surprised how easy this is. Wear all white, put a pillow behind you, and tie it around with a dark green or black obi sash. Chopsticks not included.

"Lizzie McGuire"—Okay, we know the chances of you being a born blonde is slim to none. But ride with us while Hilary Duff's still today's hot teen actress. Wear mismatched outfits, complete with a random daisy here and there, and slip-on wedgies. The final touch? Make sure to say the word "like" more than three times in a sentence, complete with the "hair flip." For example: "Like, this party like, (hair flip hear) totally, like, rocks. It's like, everyone we like, know, are like, here!"

Neil Buchanan—He's the guy from Art Attack. Put on a red sweater, jeans and sneakers. What gives you your edge is that hard British accent (master it), that annoying chuckle, and your many random ideas that pop up during conversations ("Aha! This gives me an idea for a big art attack!"). A big bonus is if you could bring tissue paper and glue to paper mache random objects.

"Ranma ½"—He's that manga character who changes gender when wet. This can be tedious, but listen up: bring an extra change of clothes. Whenever you go to the bathroom for a potty break, change. We recommend you stop doing this after you've had a few drinks. You wouldn't want to end up leaving the bathroom in your underwear.

"Super Mario"—If you've got a noticeable potbelly, then you'll have fewer things to do in order to look like this Nintendo mascot. You'll just have to find a red cap and shirt, a blue jumper and white gloves. And don't forget the moustache. If you've got time, you can even dress up your dog as a mushroom.

Smiley—Wearing a simple white shirt and jeans, put on an exaggeratedly large smiley mask. Make sure it's absolutely disproportioned to your body size. Or, wear a Scream costume but instead of the death face mask, wear smiley.

Astroboy—You're on a tight budget? It can't get easier than this. Just find red boots, a green sash/ribbon and then wear teeniest black Speedo. Style your hair so you'll have two distinct hair ends. For a final touch, with a pentel pen, draw robot details on your body.

Dexter—Want to look cute for once? With a carrot-colored wig, a laboratory coat and black boots, you may find a powerpuff girl to make steamy your Halloween. Just make sure Didi's not around.

Michael Jackson with a baby—Everyone knows how Jacko dresses up: white shirt under a black suit, shades and white gloves. For a twist, bring a doll covered in a white blanket. Now throw said baby doll around once in every few minutes.

FPJ—Clearly he's the unwanted man of the hour. Whatever his decision is for the upcoming presidential elections would surely affect the state of the country. And so to scare off partygoers anywhere, here's an idea for an FPJ costume: aside from the fake sideburns, tinted shades and wristband, bring a placard that says, "I am definitely running."

Magdalo rebel—Find your brother's fatigue uniform. Then with a liquid paper, draw a figure of the sun on a red scarf or hankie. Complete the look with a backpack and ballcap. With this costume though, security guards may refuse you entry in condo units and malls.

Group

You know what they say-two's a company, three's a party! Get your buds together for some serious Halloween costume action!

"X-Men"—Prefect for those who have leather pants and tops lying around. Don't forget the trench coats and leather boots. Even better if they're stilettos. Make sure to bring your characters' respective props-playing cards for Gambit, a flip-top lighter for Pyro, and a whole lot of attitude for Wolverine.

"Finding Nemo"—This is a no-brainer. Make like the tank gang and dress up as the respective fishes (Nemo gets orange and Peach pink. Oh, and Peach better stick to a wall. The whole night.) Just make sure the group travels together. It's not like the aquarium's that big.

F4—You obviously need to have that boyband hair and great bodies to sport those boyfriend tanks. Better if you can sing the "Meteor Garden" songs.

Miss Earth—Assign the four elements to you and your friends—earth, wind, fireand water. Not strut your stuff like you've been born to do this. Don't forget your sash and the undying wish for World Peace.

Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen—This is easy. Glittery make-up, not too-showy outfits, and a hair barrette. Oh, and don't forget the word "like," like we discussed with describing Lizzie McGuire (see top). Keep away from the liquor and drugs for the night, unless you want to be less America's Sweethearts and more like Lolitas.

"Crossroads"—Just because the movie sucked doesn't mean your costume should (actually, it probably will, too, but hey, if you're desperate). Pick who'll play Lucy the sweetie (sweatpants and a gym shirt will do fine, or anything pink and girly), sophisticated Kit (slick sleeveless top) and trailer trash Mimi. Now if only we can get Anson Mount…

…and last but not the least, the **"Like a Virgin" Trio.** Two of you don short wedding gowns, one wears an all black commando outfit, and every now and then, kiss each other.

Citrus Fire Chicken and Prawns
Fire up your appetite with grilled chicken marinated in margarita mix topped with spicy garlic & lime grilled prawns. Served with rice, fresh veggies and pico de gallo. Savor the flavor of Citrus Fire Chicken and Prawns today only at chili's
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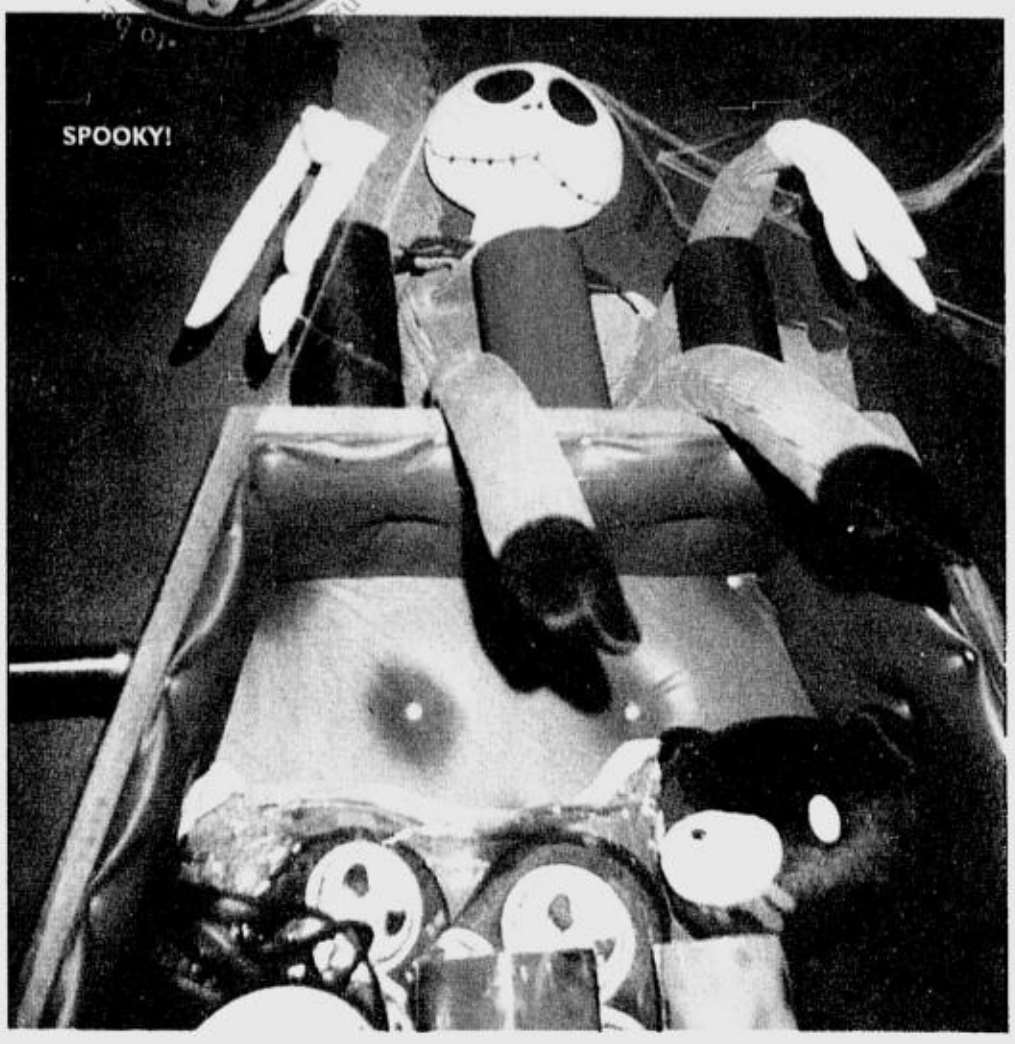


STORE OF THE WEEK

A Halloween shop for all seasons

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

WITH its dark red-violet walls, weird mannequins, collection of creepy toy figures and "casket-case," Mystic Circle may seem to have a good feel for Halloween merchandise.

But the truth is that 365 days a year, the store maintains its dim lights and eerie ambience.

As with all big things, Mystic Circle started from a simple idea. Back in school, Gayle, Mayen and Daisy dreamed of putting up a store that reflected their own eccentric preoccupations.

After college, when they became financially capable, the gang went into business to fulfill their dream. Together with Gayle's husband Jonathan Buencamino (yup, the guy from the defunct hit band Introvoys), the girls gave birth to Mystic Circle, which opened at Robinsons Galleria in 1999.

OPEN the casket! A coffin full of goodies

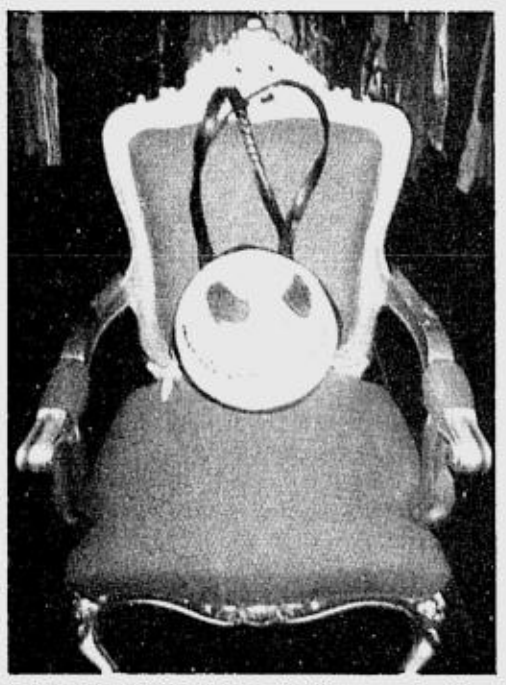
A branch is now located at the City Walk Fashion Square of Glorietta 2, while another branch at SM Megamall is being planned.

Influenced by dark movies like "The Crow" and "The Craft," as well as by gothic music, the Cure and Evanescence (whose records are always played at the store), Mystic Circle is a giant goodie bag filled with stuff that are gothic, medieval or creepily Victorian in feel.

Although prudes may call the place "Satanic," Mystic Circle continues to make good business and has developed a faithful clientele delighting in the shop's printed shirts, gothic tops, funky bottoms, boots, bags and accessories.

With Halloween just a couple of shuteyes away, Mystic Circle is the perfect place for some gift-hunting for that special weirdo in your life this spook season.

But Halloween or not, this store will continue to be a treasure trove and a second home to all freaks out there.



BAG OF BONES. A Jack Skellington shoulder bag

How to host a Halloween party for friends

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S Halloween, and while we continue to remember our loved ones who have passed away, it's not bad to go with "other traditions" this season. Like Halloween parties.

You can simply invite your friends over to watch horror flicks while eating popcorn, or you can cook up more adventurous (yet safe at home!) Halloween happenings this year.

How about an intimate masquerade party exclusively for your close friends? You can be Sadako. Or Dracula. Or one of the Charmed ones.

Or, you can host a friends-meet-friends Halloween party, where you can meet the other friends of your friends from school, workplace or church. Now is the time to let your circle of friends mingle in one bigger circle and have fun!

2bU! shares with you a few tips on hosting a Halloween party:

Mark your calendar. Set the date on when and where you want your party to be held. Setting a definite date will help your friends to plan ahead, adjust their schedule or ask permission from their parents early on.

Conceptualize. Think of a motif. Ask some friends to help you in the planning stage of your party. Brainstorm. The more ideas you toss around, the more creative you'll be.

Delegate. Know that you can't pull off a party alone. You need help from friends, and they'll gladly help as much as they can. Assign different friends to oversee food and drinks, décor, costume coordination, presentations, games, etc.

Choose food and refreshments. If you have a theme for your party, it will be more fun if you can reconcile your theme with your food and drinks. Ask the help of your friends who are aspiring to be chefs someday. Or, you can check the Internet for recipes that go with Halloween parties.

Involve as many friends as possible in your Halloween program. If you'd like to have a ghost story-sharing session a la "Are You Afraid of the Dark," make sure to ask everyone for stories. Or ask them to bring the most delicious and unique Halloween meal, drinks or dessert.

List your wanted guests. Make sure you have a clear idea of the number of your guests to avoid running out on food and drinks. If you have big shockers and effects at your door, make sure all your friends are healthy and will not wind up with a heart attack because of utter shock.

Invite in style. Instead of a regular invitation card or a text message, you can try sending an invite using spooky items like a rag doll, a toy spider or anything creepy.

Whatever you do, just have clean fun and stay sober. Enjoy!

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

High court is final arbiter, lawmakers warned

Story below, Col. 2

It's red vs black in Davide's case

By Carla P. Gomez, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Vincent Cabreza

BY THE COLOR of their shirts, some people can be classified either as supporter or opponent of the im

IT'S RED/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, October 30, 2003 ★★ 64 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 324 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Ganzon family fights over his dead body

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The opposition leader detained longest during martial law, the man called the "Stormy Petrel of the South" because of his fiery speeches in Congress that did not spare the power blocs in the country, rightly deserved to die in peace and dignity.

GANZON/ A21

THE BRAT PACK—initiators, movers of the impeachment complaint and relentless in their efforts to transmit it the Senate—bears illustrious names in the country's dynastic politics. From left, Representatives Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella, Gilbert Teodoro, Mark Cojuangco, Charlie Cojuangco, Gilbert Remulla and Michael John Duavit. JOAN BONDOC

No stopping us, says JDV

Impeachment rap to be transmitted on Nov. 10

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

IGNORING the Supreme Court's status quo order, the House of Representatives yesterday agreed to transmit to the Senate on Nov. 10 the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to pave the way for his trial on charges of illegally disbursing the Judiciary Development Fund.

Nov. 10 is the resumption of the House session, which was adjourned on Tuesday on the day the Supreme Court stopped the House from immediately transmitting the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate and the Senate from accepting them.

The House of Representatives reached the decision after a five-hour caucus at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. In attendance were 24 congressmen representing five political parties.

At a press conference after the caucus, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. declared that the crisis in the House was over and that the congressmen had agreed to work on the impeachment as one.

"Never before in the history of the House that the House is more united. All political parties attended in full force," De Venecia said.

He said the congressmen agreed to question the status quo order of the Supreme Court during the scheduled deliberation on the six petitions before it on Nov. 6. and to challenge the tribunals' jurisdiction over the impeachment issue.

Besides issuing the status quo order, the Supreme Court directed members of the House and the Senate, along with the Solicitor General, to comment on the petitions against the impeachment complaint by Nov. 3. They were also ordered to appear before the high court for oral arguments on Nov. 5.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina were among those who petitioned the high tribunal to declare unconstitutional the impeachment complaint against Davide.

Gonzalez said the second impeachment complaint against Davide was unconstitu-

NO STOPPING/ A6

GAINING support for her crusade to save Davide from impeachment puts former President Cory Aquino in a pleasant mood with the Chief Justice's wife Virginia on Wednesday at the Ateneo de Manila University during a prayer rally. *(Story on Page A21.)* AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Davide tormentor youngest in House

By Carlito Pablo

HE GOES by the nickname Wimpy, but for many of his colleagues in Congress Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William Fuentebella is anything but a wimp.

Fuentebella, who at 28 is the youngest congressman in the 226-strong House of Representatives, was one of the two principal complainants who filed the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Oct. 23.

He also initiated the House investigation into the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) last year following complaints from Naga City court employees who said they had not been receiving their cost of living allowances as mandated by the JDF.

Fuentebella is a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition and is the House assistant majority floor leader.

He holds a business administration

DAVIDE/ A21

JOAN BONDOC

ACCIDENTAL MEETING
To avert a crisis, the House multi-party meeting was going on at the Edsa Shangri-La on Wednesday but all eyes were on FPJ who just happened to be around for lunch with Sen. Tito Sotto. *(Story on Page A3.)*

GMA proposal to defuse political crisis

By Juliet L. Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court to forge a covenant upholding the principle that the high tribunal "has the final authority to interpret the Constitution" and "the need for strong institutional checks and balances" among coequal branches of government.

Ms Macapagal made the proposal in a bid to defuse the political crisis over the House impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., saying the potentially explosive confrontation is hurting the economy.

In a statement, the President called on two sides to work together for the good of the nation, saying the conflict was doing "more harm than good" to the nation.

"Political bickering and partisan de-

GMA/ A6

Pimentel to challenge 'illegal' SC order

By Michael Lim Ubac, Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

THE SUPREME COURT committed "an illegal and unconstitutional act" when it ordered Congress on Tuesday to maintain the status quo on the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., according to opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"I will take it upon myself as a senator to challenge that ruling," Pimentel, a lawyer, said at a press conference yesterday. He said he would file today a petition asking the high court to allow him to intervene in the matter.

In Pimentel's view, the high court went "overboard" in ordering the House not to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, and the Senate not to accept the same.

He said the tribunal had no authority over matters related to impeachment proceedings because the impeachment court was "higher than the Supreme Court."

"It's not the Senate, but the impeachment court," he said. "It is a separate body created by the Constitution and, thus, has a constitutional mandate. We

PIMENTEL/ A20

Salonga, Vidal declare Davide innocent

BASED on the evidence two civil society groups have examined, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is innocent of the impeachment charge that he underpaid judges and other judicial personnel P527.8 million in allowances, according to former Senate President Jovito Salonga.

"We have reviewed the relevant evidence regarding the second impeachment complaint and agreed that we should speak out to declare Chief Justice Hilario Davide is innocent," said Salonga who spoke for Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan, a group of lawyers and law students from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University

SALONGA/ A21

High court is final arbiter, lawmakers warned

By Philip C. Tubeza

MAKE no mistake about it: The Supreme Court's status quo" ruling on the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is a "judicial order" that should not be trifled with.

The warning was aired yesterday by the tribunal's spokesperson, Ismael Khan Jr., who said the order was couched in diplomatic language only out of "interdepartmental courtesy."

"It was carefully crafted because it was also addressed to a co-equal branch of government. [But] it has the force of an order," he said.

Khan declined to say what the high court would do if the congressmen defied the order. He said any complaints and comments should be filed on Nov. 5, the day scheduled for oral arguments before the tribunal on the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint.

But former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, one of those who had asked the high court to stop Davide's impeachment, said the tribunal could find complaining congressmen in contempt of court.

Appellate Justice Regalado Maambong, one of the seven amici curiae appointed by the Supreme Court for Nov. 5, said those who would violate the order could be punished for direct or indirect contempt.

HIGH COURT/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/30/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Terror ruled out in Cotabato blast

By TJ Burgonio

AT LEAST six persons were injured when a homemade bomb exploded in a bakery in front of a cathedral in Cotabato City Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

But the military ruled out the involvement of the Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiyah in the bomb attack, saying it was the handiwork of extortionists.

The bomb, hidden in a plastic bag, was left at the entrance of "Inok's Bakery" across the Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral by unidentified men. The device exploded at around 7:45 p.m., injuring a bakery employee and five bystanders.

Police said extortion was the motive for the blast as the bakery had received threats from unidentified people demanding about P100,000 a month in payments.

The injured, who were identified as Elpidio Palolong, 51; Rosalinda Pasinlan, 30; Reynaldo Torebaya, 30; Edna Baroy, 43; Armeen Yap, 43, and Noel Mangisay, were brought to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Three men, who were believed to have planted the homemade bomb, were being tracked down by troops from the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief information officer, said the military was discounting JI's hand in the assault.

Lucero said local authorities believe that extortionists, who got rebuffed by the owner of the pet shop, were the perpetrators in the attack, which happened on the second day of the Ramadan, the Muslims' holy month of fasting.

"The authorities are looking at the extortion angle," Lucero said.

In Midsayap, North Cotabato, police said they were convinced that the man arrested in connection with the Oct. 3 mosque explosion in Barangay Villarica there, was the same suspect that talked to a witness before the incident.

Three people died in the blast, including two ranking irrigation officials, while more than a dozen others were injured.

Supt. Melchor Loyola, provincial police chief, identified the suspect as Habib Mohalidin Abo, 35, a resident of Barangay Villarica. Abo was arrested on Oct 21.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Marquez, Midsayap police chief, said a witness positively identified the suspect as the one who lobbed the grenade on Oct. 3.

But Abo denied carrying out the grenade attack. "That is not true, I was among those inside the mosque joining the mid-day prayer," Abo told Radio dxMS.

Abo, a chainsaw operator, is now detained at the Midsayap PNP detention cell. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Rosa-May V. de Guzman and Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PRESIDENT Macapagal with Davao City Mayor Rody Duterte waves to supporters during a multi sectoral rally held at the Freedom Park in Davao City.

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GMA orders manhunt for hostage killers

By Gil C. Cabacunga Jr. and Julie S. Alipala,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the police and the military to intensify its manhunt for the killers of five hostages seized by gunmen from a Sabah resort even as she condemned the killing as "outrageous and senseless."

"I condemn this outrageous and senseless killing as I condole with the families of the victims," Macapagal said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal ordered the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to block all possible exits out of the country and coordinate with Malaysian authorities to set up a tight dragnet.

Suspected Malaysian pirates killed five of the six workers of a resort in Sabah whom they abducted and took hostages early this month. Only one survived to tell of his harrowing experience in the hands of the abductors.

The lone survivor, Nonoy Arkusil, had told authorities that his companions were murdered by the gunmen. It was unclear if any of the bodies had been recovered.

In Zamboanga City, the military yesterday said they are verifying reports that the Abu Sayyaf faction, led by Ghalib Andang alias commander Robot, were involved in the abduction of the Sabah workers.

Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander Commodore George Uy told the INQUIRER that they were waiting for the final results of the "tactical interrogation" on Nonoy.

It was Nonoy, who claimed that Andang led the group that snatched them. He identified Andang based on photos of Abu Sayyaf suspects shown him by the Tawi-Tawi police.

"He was still in a state of confusion so his revelation might not be accurate at all," Uy said.

Uy said he could not figure out how Andang would be involved in the Sabah incident because "it was not easy for Robot to move around." *With reports from Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AFP*

Missing kids now on the Net

ARE you an avid Internet surfer? Bookmark this webpage to your list of favorite websites and you might help end a parent's nightmare.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, along with the Philippine National Police and the Department of Interior and Local Governments, yesterday formally launched a website for missing children and persons below 18 years old.

The DSWD urged the public to regularly check out www.sagipbata.com which posts photos and basic information about the missing and report "recovered" persons and their happy reunion with their families.

Simultaneous with the launching of the website, the DSWD also opened text messaging hotlines for the public to report missing minors to authorities: 0918-933-3793 for Smart, and 0917-898-5678 for Globe users.

To send a report, key in mc_<name of child>_<when, where last seen>_<landline, address of sender>.

The sender will then shortly receive by text an automatic reply from the DSWD saying that the report has been forwarded to the Philippine National Police and that he or she must repeat the message after 48 hours in case law enforcers have not yet contacted him back. *Volt Contreras*

De Castro eyeing presidency–Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE the nation waits in suspense for movie star Fernando Poe Jr. to declare whether or not he will run for president, another hugely popular media celebrity cum politician is being primed for the big time.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara told reporters that a trusted informant had told him that Sen. Noli de Castro has decided to go for the presidency in next May's polls.

De Castro, an ABS-CBN newscaster before becoming senator, has consistently topped presidential preference surveys but has so far not indicated he was interested in higher office.

"Whether he will run as an opposition or as an independent candidate, I don't know," said Angara, the president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the country's largest opposition party.

In a phone interview however, De Castro said Angara's source must have been mistaken because he said he has not made any announcement regarding his political plans nor has he confided his plans to anyone.

"I haven't decided yet," De Castro said, adding that he would make an announcement soon.

He said he was taking him time to make a decision because it involved a very important matter.

The latest Pulse Asia survey showed De Castro again topping both the presidential and vice presidential preferences in a poll asking people whom they would likely vote for if elections were to be held today.

The survey was conducted between Aug.28 and Sept.10.

Of the list of possible candidates that respondents were asked to choose from, De Castro landed first, with 27 percent, followed by Raul Roco (20), President Macapagal-Arroyo (14), Fernando Poe (11), Sen. Panfilo Lacson (9).

De Castro also placed first (25 percent) among the vice presidential preferences.

Sen. Loren Legarda was in second place (11 percent), followed by Raul Roco (8), Angara (5) and Sen. Juan Flavier (5).

Angara said that De Castro, if he should decide to run for president, would pose a "very big threat" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said it was important for presidential aspirants in the opposition to sit down and "think very seriously of the interest of the opposition."

"Because if they persist in running simultaneously, then they will hang together, they will lose together," he said.

Angara may have been referring to Lacson who last week said the opposition would have no choice but to pick him as its standard bearer as he claimed to enjoy the support of the majority of his LDP party mates and several members of other political parties.

Angara also said it would be better for De Castro to run under the opposition banner than as an independent to ensure that his constituencies are organized and his votes are guarded come Election Day.

Youth group hails extension of voter listing

A YOUTH group yesterday hailed the decision of the Commission on Elections to extend the registration period for first-time voters and transferees.

In a statement, the Anak ng Bayan youth party said the decision would allow students, who are now enjoying their semestral break, to register and participate in the May 10, 2004 elections.

"We are commending the Comelec for giving us more time..." Melona Daclan, Anak ng Bayan coordinator for the National Capital Region, said.

The youth group had earlier initiated a signature campaign asking the Comelec to extend the period of registration which was suppose to end on Oct. 31.

Comelec the other day extended the deadline of registration for first-time voters and transferees to Nov. 9. However, it also announced that its offices would be closed from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

Registration for first-time voters will resume Nov. 3, Monday. *Martin P. Marfil*

FPJ still hemming and hawing

By Cynthia D. Balana

MOVIE actor Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday said he was still undecided whether to run for president in the 2004 elections despite the two million signatures his supporters claim to have gathered to convince him to run.

In an ambush interview at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel where he had lunch with Sen. Vicente Sotto and two other companions, Poe said he was not sure whether he would still make an announcement regarding his candidacy.

"Hindi pa natin alam 'yan" (We don't know that yet), he said when asked when he would make the announcement.

Asked if he was willing to repay the support of two million Filipinos who affixed their signatures on a petition for him to run, Poe said he hoped that he would be able to express his gratitude to them someday.

Poe was spotted by reporters who were waiting at the adjacent room for the outcome of the multi-party caucus of congressmen on the impeachment issue.

Poe, thinking that the reporters sensed his luncheon meeting beforehand, said *"Pasensya na kayo ha, brod, at naghintay pa kayo* (Sorry you had to wait)" four times and said "sorry" three times in evading the questions of reporters.

When asked to describe the difference between politics and show biz, Poe said "As you know, politics and showbiz, there's quite a big difference."

Asked which generated more intrigues, Poe said it depends on the issue and personality involved. He then begged off from reporters, saying he was in a hurry.

Sotto, who was with him, said Poe had not arrived at a decision on whether to run for president.

"Not yet. Maybe at a proper time," he added.

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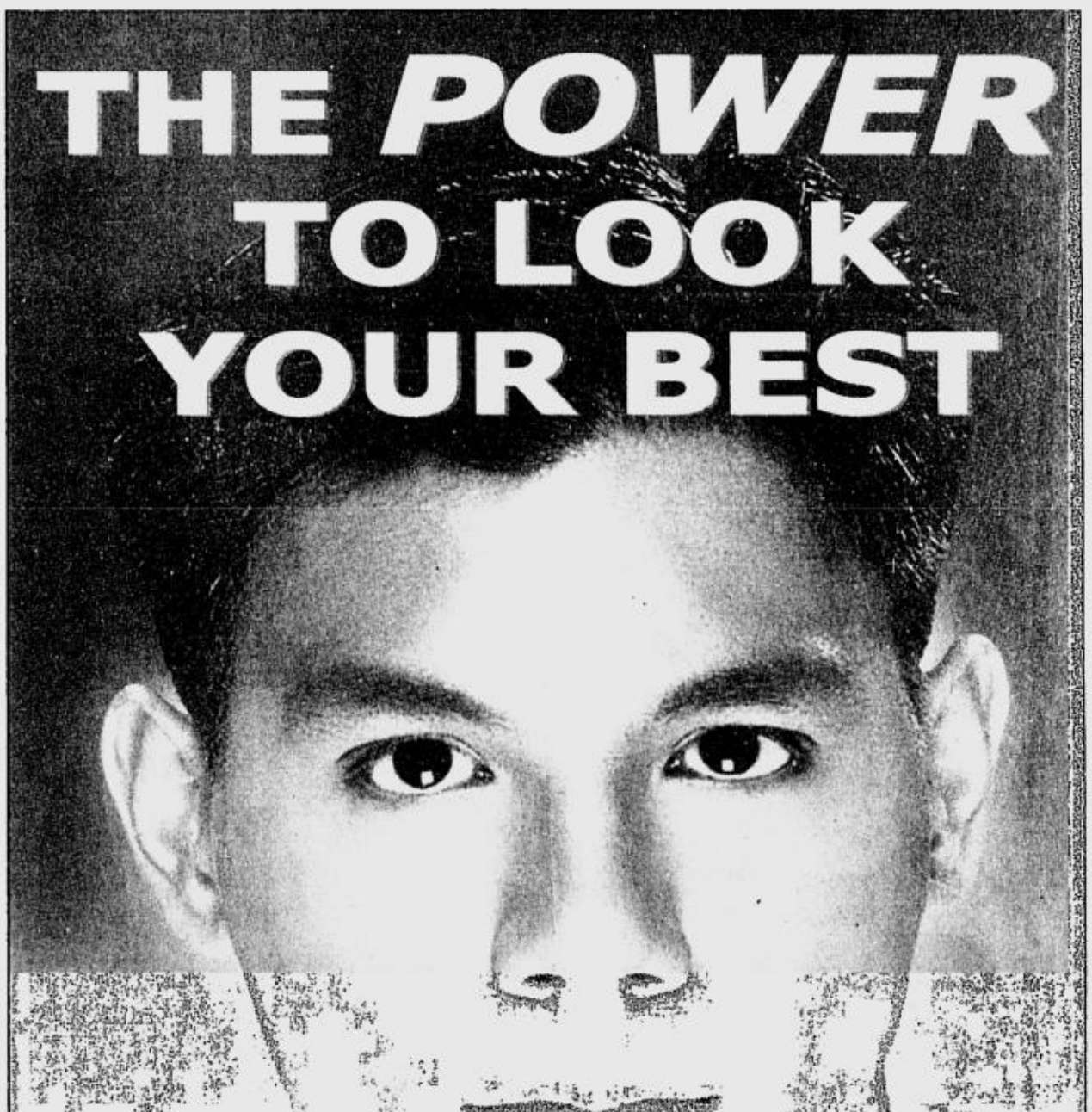

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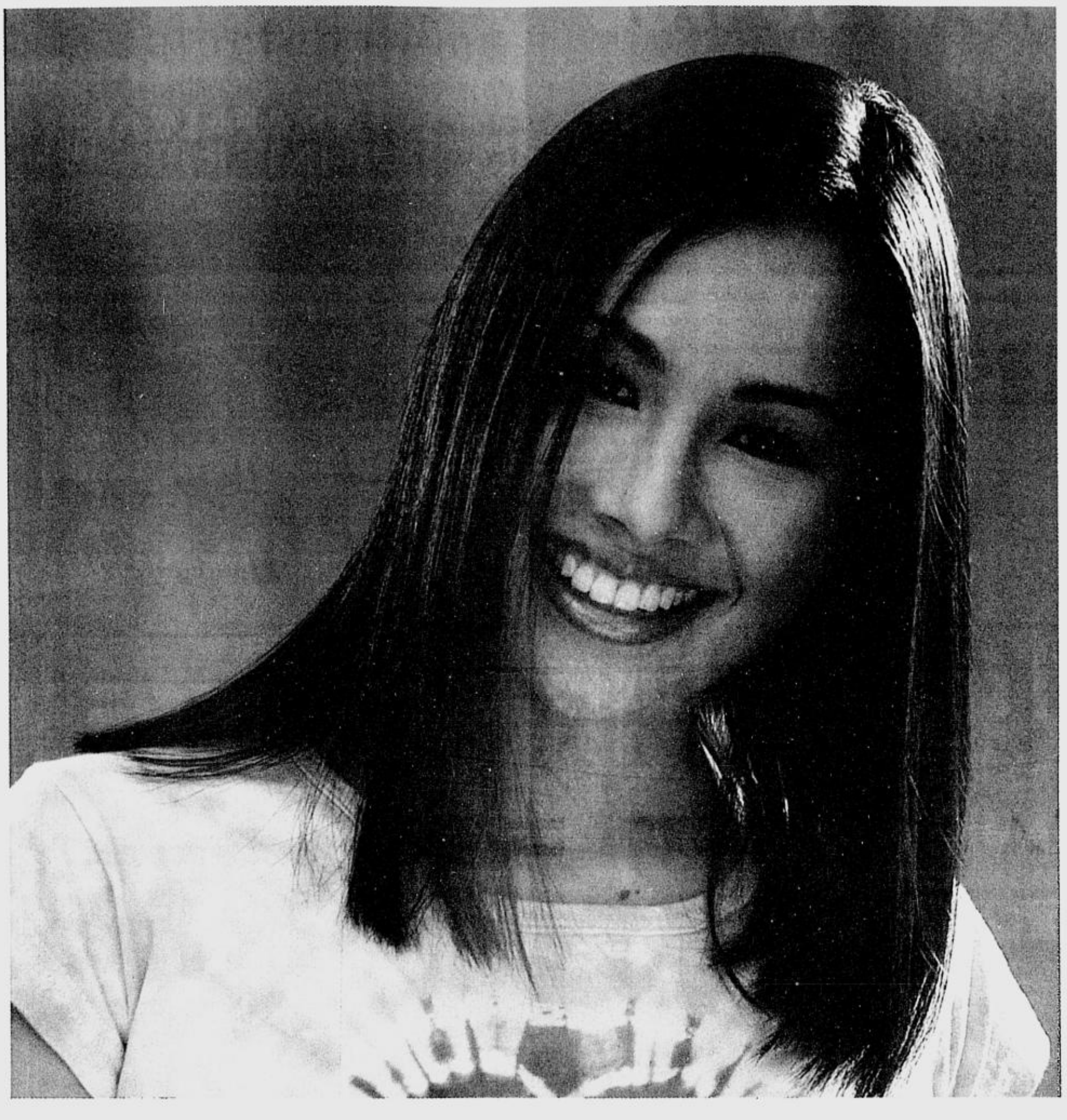

By Gil Cabacungan

THE PHILIPPINES has pledged to send more humanitarian aid and technical assistance to Iraq as the government remained hopeful of getting a piece of the multi-billion reconstruction fund for the war-ravaged country.

In a statement, Ambassador Roberto Romulo, senior presidential adviser and chair of the public-private sector task force on Iraq reconstruction, said the Philippines has agreed to increase to 500 its current team of 100 police, military and medical personnel deployed in Iraq.

Romulo said the Philippines had likewise agreed to provide technical assistance through advice and training in health care, education, information and communications technologies, and community-based development and environmental management.

While the Philippines had made no monetary contributions, Romulo said the humanitarian and technical assistance were meant to increase Iraq's absorptive capacity for the monetary aid.

Romulo made the pledge during the International Donor's Conference in Madrid, Spain on Oct. 23 and 24 where 78 countries and non-government organizations pledged a total of $13 billion in aid for the reconstruction of Iraq's water, power, health care and infrastructure over the next 5 years.

"Our presence at the donors conference has put us in the radar screen of donors, contractors and the Iraqi government and will be helpful in generating subcontracts for Philippine contractors and professionals down the road," Romulo said.

Ople seeks debt relief for poor countries

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Secretary Blas Ople yesterday asked developed countries and international financial institutions to consider a debt swap for anti-poverty programs for poor countries like the Phillippines.

Presiding over a United Nations General Assembly roundtable on financing for development, Ople said debt swap for anti-poverty programs will help poor countries realize the UN millennium goal of slashing the incidence of poverty by half by the year 2015.

Ople chaired the first roundtable attended by 24 countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, organized by the UNGA to review the regional dimensions of the implementation of the commitments made in the so-called "Monterey Consensus" held in Mexico last year.

Under the debt swap scheme, debts should be forgiven provided the savings are allocated entirely to anti-poverty programs, including micro-financing for small enterprises especially in the countryside.

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Palace confirms appointment of new VFA director

By Juliet Labog Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

MALACAÑANG yesterday confirmed the appointment of a new executive director for the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom) following the resignation of its chief Amado Valdez.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ariel Abadilla, the deputy chief of mission at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, has been appointed to replace Valdez.

Valdez reportedly resigned after a dispute with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople over the treatment of some United States troops allegedly involved in a drunk-driving incident in Zamboanga City last month.

Ople said he welcomed the appointment of Abadilla, a career foreign service officer and a graduate of the Ateneo Law School, and looked forward to working with him to ensure the proper implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

"Ambassador Abadilla brings with him a wealth of experience in RP-US security and military matters. He also has a deep understanding of the policy basis and parameters that will guide him in his work," Ople said in a statement.

Bunye said Valdez, who cited "policy differences" with Ople as the reason for his resignation, had no right to make this claim as he was not involved in policymaking.

He said policymaking is done at the level of the foreign affairs and defense secretaries who co-chair the VFACom.

"I believe what an executive director needs to do is just implement the policy that is laid down," Bunye said.

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No stopping us, says JDV

From page A1

ional because under the Constitution, only one impeachment complaint can be filed against the same official in one year.

De Venecia said he and Senate President Franklin Drilon had agreed not to appear before the Supreme Court despite the status quo order requiring their presence.

The Speaker had also been instructed by the multi-party contingent to question the jurisdiction of the high court by engaging the services of private lawyers to argue in favor of the House.

De Venecia, however, said that sending private lawyers in behalf of the House did not necessarily mean that the chamber would be submitting itself under the jurisdiction of the court, a co-equal branch of government.

"We should defend the political and territorial integrity of the House. We're responding to the order. It's not in the national interest to defy it. We will just question it," he said.

Special session

De Venecia said he would propose to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Drilon the calling of a special session of Congress next week in order to pass the proposed national budget, which has been held "hostage" by the impeachment debate.

But Drilon last night said he could not agree to De Venecia's proposal that Congress hold a special session because he believed the session would be used not to tackle the proposed 2004 national budget.

Drilon said the session would be used by the House to transmit the impeachment complaint against Davide to the Upper House.

Open defiance

"If this happens, then there will be an open defiance of the status quo order of the Supreme Court," Drilon said in a statement.

"I cannot participate in that process. Neither should the President."

At a news conference, Drilon said should Ms Macapagal call a special session, he would bring the matter to senators in a caucus.

While people have serious reservations about the status quo order of the high court, "in the higher interest of the nation, we should exhaust all the legal remedies and processes available before the high tribunal," the Senate President said.

Drilon said he was joining Ms Macapagal in appealing to the House to heed the high court order.

Gonzalez said the House should have abided by the status quo order of the Supreme Court in order to avert a constitutional crisis. He said the House could not defy the order of the highest court of the land on constitutional matters because the Supreme Court is the final arbiter in this area.

"We have to abide by that, otherwise we will collide with the Supreme Court. That is the real constitutional crisis if the House will not obey the order of the high court," Gonzalez said. But he said he would abide by any decision of the House on the matter.

Opponents to aid views

De Venecia said it was agreed that the one-third requirement for members to sign for the automatic transmittal of the complaint to the Senate had been met. As a result, he said, there was no need to subject the motion to transmit to voting.

The transmittal will require plenary action, according to the Speaker. This means that there will be a motion to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate when the session resumes on Nov. 10. Opponents will be allowed to argue against it so that their views will be recorded, De Venecia said.

Rep. Florencio Abad of Batanes and Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of Tarlac said they acceded to the transmittal of the complaint because they would be allowed to express their views against it once a motion is filed on the floor.

'Dual citizen'

Rep. Jacinto Paras, whom De Venecia kidded as a "dual citizen" for speaking in behalf of the Nationalist People's Coalition while being a member of Lakas, said De Venecia was able to arrive at a mutually acceptable formula for all the parties concerned.

"The Speaker has never been stronger," he said.

The parties represented in the caucus were the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the party-list groups, NPC, Liberal Party, and other smaller parties.

Rep. Celso Lobregat of Zamboanga City said he did not believe that more signatories to the complaint would withdraw after the amicable settlement of the issue.

"In my case, there's great pressure on me to withdraw but I will not do it. I believe in our cause," Lobregat said.

De Venecia said the House leadership was no longer considering any other option "because we're going for a full settlement" which was the transmittal of the complaint.

At least three congressmen-lawyers were asked to prepare the legal arguments for the hearing of the Supreme Court on Nov. 5. They were Gilbert Teodoro of Tarlac, Rolex Suplico of Iloilo and Clavel Martinez of Cebu.

Three private lawyers will represent the House in the Supreme Court hearing questioning the status quo order and its jurisdiction over the case. One of those being mentioned was Mario Ongkiko. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Take sides,' Bernas tells youth

By Blanche S. Rivera

FR. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., one of seven law experts appointed as amici curiae by the Supreme Court, yesterday called on the public, especially the youth, to "take sides" in the controversy involving Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Bernas, dean of the Ateneo Law School, said the multifaceted conflict involving the Chief Justice and Congress was more a political rather than constitutional issue.

"Impeachment is essentially a political process... [And] because this is a political process, the people have every right to get involved. Take sides," Bernas told students during a prayer rally led by former President Corazon Aquino at the Church of the Gesu inside the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

He said that while there were serious legal contentions raised by both Davide and the House, impeachment would become a political case once the Senate convenes as an impeachment court.

Recalling the way the senators voted during the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada in 2001, Bernas noted that they decided according to party affiliations.

He said that in an impeachment trial here, what prevailed was the judges' party loyalty and not necessarily judicial values and the merits of the case.

Bernas also said the controversy had three aspects—statutory, constitutional and political—that made it more difficult to resolve.

"We should approach this problem not only with seriousness but with great care, realizing that many issues are debatable," he said.

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Davide son defended

By Philip C. Tubeza

DREAM on.

The spokesperson of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed former Sen. Rene Saguisag's suggestion that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. should accept censure and his son fired from the SC to diffuse the current constitutional crisis due to Davide's impeachment.

"I have not read Senator Saguisag's comment but I think he made it tongue in cheek," said Assistant Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr., the head of the SC Public Information Office.

Khan also defended the membership of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s son Joseph Bryan Hilary P. David, in seven SC committees, including the bid and award committee (BAC) for SC building projects.

Khan said Bryan is a member of these committees because he is the Chief Justice's chief of staff.

"He is occupying a highly confidential position, which is allowed under civil service rules," Khan said.

Davide's critics have accused Bryan of having undue influence in the BAC and the working group of the committee on the Halls of Justice, where irregularities have allegedly happened.

But Khan and Assistant Court Administrator Antonio Dujua, the BAC head, both denied that there were anomalies or that Bryan was using his relationship with his father to favor a particular bidder.

"He does not have the influence attributed to him. He is a law-abiding person with a simple lifestyle," Khan said.

GMA acts to defuse ...

From page A1

bates" would not solve the problem, Ms Macapagal said. "Let us reach forth for this solution without blame or recrimination, through principled consensus and with dignity for all concerned."

Nearly 90 House members, mostly supporters of controversial businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., have signed the impeachment complaint alleging that Davide misappropriated money from Judiciary Development Fund that was intended for allowances to judges and court personnel to buy luxury cars and build and repair vacation homes for justices.

The Supreme Court, acting on separate petitions filed by private lawyers questioning the legality of the impeachment move, ordered the House and the Senate to "maintain the status quo" by not acting further on the complaint. Davide did not participate in the court deliberations.

Even so, the controversy has spooked financial markets, which is still recovering from a failed military coup attempt in July. The peso plunged to a record closing low of 55.50 to the US dollar on Monday but has improved a bit the past two days.

Give-and-take

Elaborating on Ms Macapagal's compromise formula, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said there should be give-and-take by both sides.

Bunye said there would be no resolution of the dispute if both parties insisted on the legal principles of fiscal autonomy and impeachment technicalities.

"One school of thought is to the effect that the final arbiter on any matter relating to law is the Supreme Court. Of course, the other party will also claim that Congress necessarily has oversight functions over the other branches of government," he said.

No end

"There will be no end to the discussions and the President is precisely hoping that there will be some sort of agreement, what she is referring to as covenant, and this covenant would take into consideration maybe not strict legalities but the national interest," he said.

Malacañang is also worried that a prolonged impasse on the Davide impeachment case could delay the approval of next year's budget and stall vital tax reforms needed to boost government revenue.

Cooling-off period

Bunye said that while the adjournment of Congress until Nov. 10 provided a cooling-off period for the parties involved, the changes in Congress' schedule would push back the processing of other vital legislative measures.

"It will have a domino effect on the pending bills in Congress especially the budget. But we're still optimistic that the issue would be resolved soon and the lawmakers would go back and focus on their work," he said.

In her statement, however, Ms Macapagal expressed hope that the economy would be resilient enough to weather the latest political crisis.

"The democratic system has a tendency to be rocked by controversy but it has shown the capacity for bouncing back and moving forward," she said. "This is the same case for our economy that has been beset by transient doubts but has shown strong, consistent resiliency. There is confidence in our stability, investments continue pour in."

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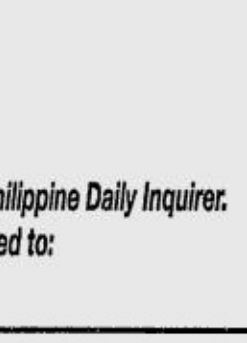

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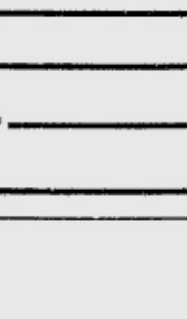

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Now, Erap wants to go to US for knee surgery

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PERSONAL physician of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada has raised anew the possibility of the ousted leader being allowed to leave for the United States to have his arthritic knees operated on by an American doctor.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Lorenzo Hocson said an operation abroad has become necessary after a series of medical tests at the Makati Medical Center and at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang showed that Estrada's problematic knee has given rise to more health problems.

Hocson claimed a recently discovered "multiple slipped disc" condition could result in Estrada's becoming paralyzed in one or both knees.

"What we are worried about are his knees. If they are not operated on, his health problems will worsen because he can barely walk," Hocson said.

"His inability to walk freely is aggravating problems in his back," he said.

Hocson said that he and the orthopedic surgeons that have been attending to Estrada since Monday are recommending an immediate operation.

He said he hoped that such a "serious health condition" would now convince the court to allow Estrada to leave.

ESTRADA

Estrada last year requested that he be allowed to leave for the US to be operated on by the surgeon of his choice, Dr. Christopher Mow, at the Stanford Medical Center in California.

But the Sandiganbayan special division hearing the plunder and graft charges against him thumbed down the request, saying Estrada was a flight risk.

Hocson said there was now a pressing need for the anti-graft court to allow the operation claiming that Estrada's health was deteriorating.

"The slipped disc problem has caused some of the nerves in his spinal chord to be stuck between the bones, a condition that can result in his becoming paralyzed in one or both legs," Hocson explained.

Hocson and the other doctors also claimed to have found a torn ligament in Estrada's left knee and that both knees have undergone "degenerative changes."

He said a final X-ray would be done today after which the doctors would make a comprehensive medical report on Estrada's condition and recommend total knee replacement surgery.

Although he admitted that this kind of operation is now being done here, Hocson said he had to respect the "choice of my patient" concerning the level of confidence he has in the doctor who will perform the surgery.

He said he and the other doctors are less worried about the multiple slipped disc problem which does not seem to need immediate surgery and can be treated with medicine and therapy.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 30, 2003
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:31-39
Gospel: Lk 13:31-35

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and gave him this warning, "Leave this place and go on your way, for Herod wants to kill you." Jesus said to them, "Go and give that fox my answer: 'I drive out demons and heal today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my course!' Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and for a little longer, for it would not be fitting for a prophet to be killed outside Jerusalem.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you slay the prophets and stone your apostles! How often have I tried to bring together your children, as a bird gathers her young under her wings, but you refused! From now on you will be left with your temple and you will no longer see me until the time when you will say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Commentary

"If he did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all, how will he not give us all things with him?" This text reminds me of how Yahweh tested the faith of Abraham and how Isaac was spared from death when God saw how obedient Abraham was. But in the case of God the Father, his son Jesus was not spared from death. He allowed Jesus to die on the cross, and somehow the death of the Son was an experience of dying on the part of the Father. In Jesus, God is truly an Emmanuel, a God with us, in total solidarity with our human condition. Life whether divine or human is about the capacity to give up what is most dear and precious to us.

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CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES COMMITTED BY PUBLIC OFFICERS)—Accountable officer—An accountable officer under Art. 217 of the Revised Penal Code is a public officer who, by reason of his office, is accountable for public funds or property. Sec. 101(1) of the Government Auditing Code of the Philippines (PD No. 1445) defines accountable officer to be every officer of any government agency whose duties permit or require the possession or custody of government funds or property and who shall be accountable therefor and for the safekeeping thereof in conformity with law. In the determination of who is an accountable officer, it is the nature of the duties which he performs—the fact that, as part of his duties, he received public money for which he was bound to account, and not the nomenclature or the relative importance the position held—which is the controlling factor. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Querijero vs People, G.R. No. 153483, February 14, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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High court is final arbiter, lawmakers warned

From page A1

He said violators could be fined P30,000 or face imprisonment of six months.

"Whether [the order] is courteous or not, it should be followed," Maambong said.

Chavez said congressmen should not blame Davide or the tribunal for the supposedly prevailing "constitutional crisis" because they were the ones who started it all.

Maambong, Chavez and Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) president Jose Anselmo Cadiz said the high court was the right venue for the issue of Davide's impeachment because the question of constitutionality had to be addressed first.

"Under the Constitution, it is the Supreme Court that is the final arbiter. If there is something unconstitutional, the court is mandated to say it," Cadiz said.

Private sector

The impeachment proponents are looking to the private sector to break the impasse between the House and the Supreme Court, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said in a media forum in San Juan.

"At this time, it may take private practitioners or lawyers' groups like the PBA (Philippine Bar Association) and the IBP to bridge the gap between the congressmen and the Chief Justice," the opposition lawmaker said.

Jaraula said Davide and the congressmen had locked horns, with neither side inclined to allow room for a settlement. He said this was where private lawyers could come in.

If "no happy solution" is reached before Nov. 10, when Congress resumes session, the impeachment will definitely proceed, he said.

"We are determined to push through with the impeachment proceedings, but we are not averse to the idea of a constitutional reconciliation," Jaraula said.

Bully

Asked to elaborate, he said it could begin with the simple cognizance of the "oversight powers" of Congress and the "fiscal autonomy" of the Supreme Court.

Jaraula said they would not abide with the high court's status quo order.

"It will be the height of stupidity if there's a bully and then we ask this bully to interpret our laws and judge us," he said.

When asked whether congressmen were willing to plunge the country into chaos just because Davide had "provoked" them, Jaraula said the Chief Justice had tried their patience.

"We waited for one year for the Chief Justice to open the books [of the Judicial Development Fund], but he never did. Instead, he wrote us saying we don't have jurisdiction over [the JDF]," the lawmaker said.

Why the rush?

But at the same forum, PBA president Jay Castro said his group viewed Davide's impeachment as unconstitutional.

"We recognize the power of Congress to initiate impeachment. It should always have that power, but it should be within the bounds of the Constitution. Why rush and violate the Constitution?" he said.

Castro said there was no need to "interpret" the law on impeachment because "to file" and "to initiate" meant the same. Therefore, he said, the second impeachment complaint against Davide violated the one-year prescription period set by law.

"This is the opinion of the PBA," he said, adding that this was also what the framers of the 1987 Constitution had in mind.

The US law on impeachment, on which the Philippines based its own laws, also says the same, he said.

Favoring Davide

Maambong, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission (ConCom), said even its records showed that the framers of the 1987 Charter considered an impeachment complaint to be initiated once a verified complaint was filed.

"The records clearly show that [the law] favors Chief Justice Davide," Maambong said.

Ironically, Davide, also a ConCom member, was one of those who took part in the deliberations on the constitutional provisions on impeachment. Another is retired Supreme Court Justice Florenz Regalado, who will also appear as amicus curiae on Nov. 5.

"The records of the deliberations of the (ConCom) clearly show that an impeachment proceeding is considered initiated at the time of the filing of a verified impeachment complaint," Maambong said, adding:

"Thus, once such a complaint is filed, regardless of the outcome before the House committee on justice to which the complaint is referred, and regardless of the action taken by the House itself, a filing of a second complaint against the same official within a period of one year violates the [Constitution]."

Why only Davide?

Maambong and his fellow amicus curiae, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, pointed out that the disbursement of the JDF was approved by the entire Supreme Court.

Why then is Davide being singled out? they said.

"The evidence in our possession shows that all disbursements and expenditures, particularly the items specifically mentioned [in the impeachment complaint], were approved not by Chief Justice Davide alone, which is what [the complaint] would have us believe, but by the Supreme Court en banc, that is, a session of the full membership of the Supreme Court," Salonga said in a statement.

Salonga, a convenor of Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan, civil society groups that have come out in support of Davide, suggested that the impeachment proponents did not include the entire tribunal because that would have meant including justices who voted in favor of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in cases involving the influential businessman.

The impeachment complaint against Davide was initiated by congressmen belonging to the Cojuangco-led Nationalist People's Coalition.

Salonga noted that while the law creating the JDF—the Marcos-era PD 1949—gives absolute power to the Chief Justice to disburse the fund, Davide decided to form several committees that would study and recommend expenditures.

Democratic innovation

"If this democratic innovation is an impeachable offense, because it is a deviation from PD 1949 issued by a dictator, the entire Supreme Court should be impeached," Salonga said.

"This which would include, ironically, the dissenting justices in the coco levy case—that is, not only Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez but also Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and the dissenters in part, in so far as the voting rights of the shares claimed by Danding Cojuangco are concerned, namely, Justices Jose Vitug and Reynato Puno," he said. "But of course, that is the very thing Danding Cojuangco and his NPC will never do." *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

It's red vs black in Davide's case

From page A1

peachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Sporting red shirts are those supporting the impeachment, while those against are in black shirts, ribbons or dress.

Isabela

Some court employees in Ilagan, Isabela, have started wearing red shirts to oppose moves blocking the impeachment proceedings against Davide. Red as a sign of support for the impeachment of Davide was first seen in the House of Representatives on Monday. Congressmen who had signed the impeachment complaint sported red arm bands.

Court employees joining the "silent protest" in Isabela said they bore no ill will against Davide but merely wanted the law to take its course. The protest started after the Supreme Court ordered the observance of the status quo on the impeachment complaint against Davide on Tuesday.

Negros Oriental

In Negros Occidental, court employees started wearing something red yesterday. But they said they were protesting the failure of legislators to include them in the recent salary increases.

Rene Tolentino, president of the Coalition of Trial Court Employees (Corte) in Negros Occidental, said at least 300 employees wore red armbands as a sign of protest.

He said the court employees would go on a weeklong mass leave starting Monday to demand wage adjustments. The mass leave is expected to paralyze court activities as about 900 court employees in the province are expected to join.

Tolentino said he personally was not in favor of Davide's impeachment because the separation of powers should be upheld. "If an investigation is conducted, it should come from within the judiciary," he said.

Metro Manila

Court employees in Metro Manila are also complaining that they have been left out in the imbroglio caused by the impeachment of Davide, a situation precipitated by their complaint way back in 2002 that they were not getting their fair share in the Judiciary Development Fund.

"We are the aggrieved party here but we feel like ants being trampled in the fight of the elephants," said Johnny Cunanan of the Mandaluyong Court Employees Association.

Cunanan recalled that the Alliance of Court Employees Association of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of judiciary employees' unions, which asked the House to look into alleged irregularities involving the JDF, a multibillion-peso fund solely administered by Davide.

Cunanan said court employees were not anti- or pro-Davide. They merely want transparency in the use of the fund.

Nothing personal

A court worker who joined the "anti-Davide" action in Ilagan said he had nothing personal against Davide. He said he just wanted the impeachment trial to proceed.

Antonio Paguirigan, Isabela provincial administrator and former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Isabela chapter, expressed confidence that the judiciary would withstand the controversy hounding Davide.

Isabela Prosecutor Anthony Foz said court workers in the province did not join the pro-Davide actions on Monday. "There are no organized groups here to do such thing. We are not inclined to do that thing," he said.

Foz also said the problems hounding Davide would not affect the integrity of the courts. "The complaint is aimed at a single person only, and no one else. So, [the impeachment complaint] has no major effect at all on the judiciary and the justice system," he said.

Foz said some judges and prosecutors in the province welcomed the investigation of the JDF to clear suspicions that money had been misspent.

Baguio City

In Baguio City, most members of the IBP-Baguio-Benguet chapter said the Senate should immediately convene the impeachment court, saying that a trial could help determine whether the allegations against Davide were true.

"Too many things have been discussed about the impeachment, but we have not been shown proof [that would support the positions of either camps]," said lawyer Jose Molintas, chapter president.

Lawyer Edgar Avila, a former youth sector representative, said the merits of the impeachment charges had been overshadowed by politicking.

Public money

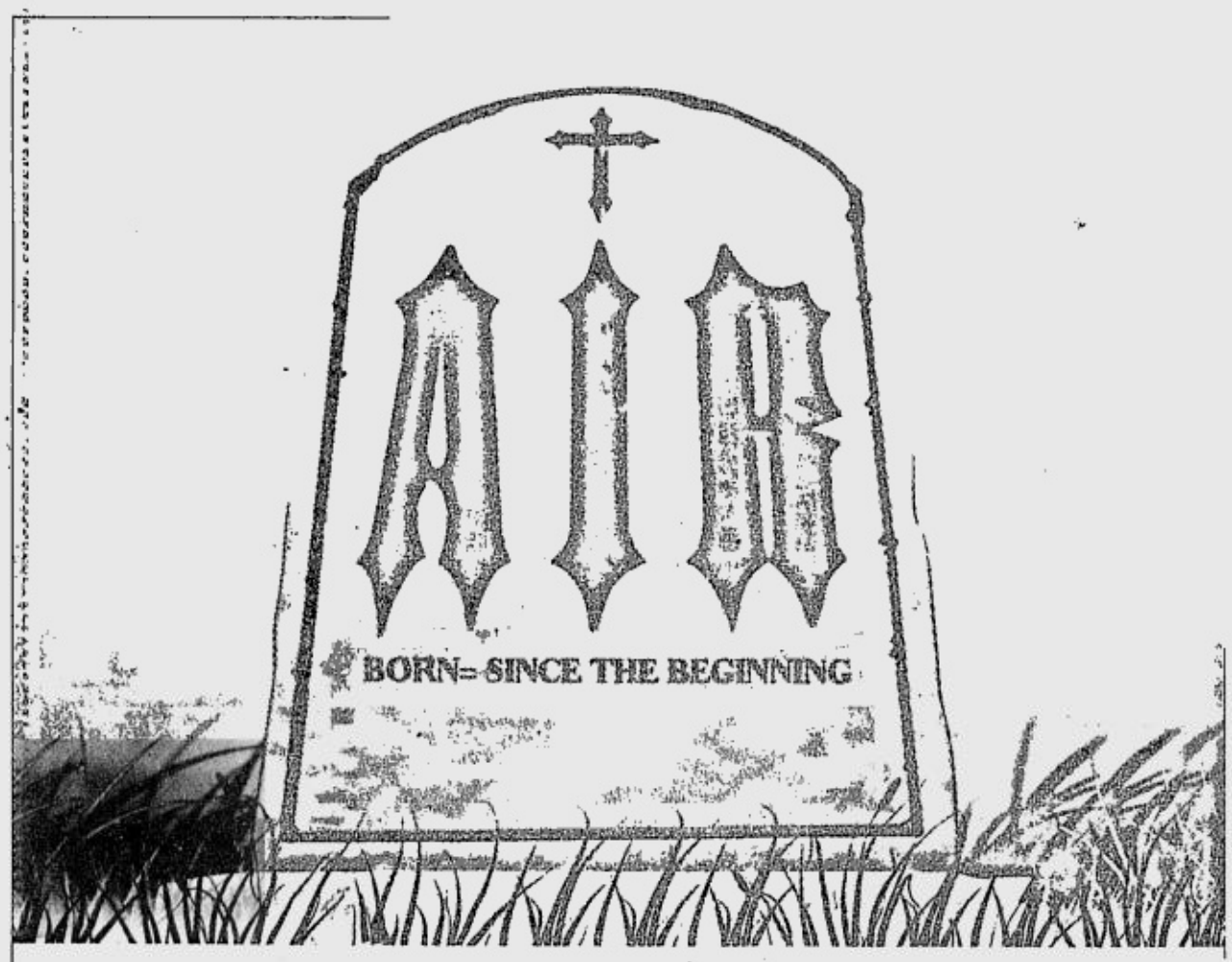
He said an impeachment trial was the only route available for Davide to vindicate himself "because the charges involved public money."

A political solution would not erase the technical malversation charges against Davide, Avila said, adding that the chief justice must explain how the JDF was used to remove doubts about the judiciary's reputation as untainted fiscal managers.

"I support Davide. I just want answers," he said.

Judges and court employees in Baguio showed their support for Davide yesterday. But they said they had not scheduled any mass action to seek an end to Davide's impeachment.

"That was not our consensus. We are still divided on whether the JDF was properly used to build two new summer cottages for the justices and a multipurpose facility at the Supreme Court's summer compound here," a court employee said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*



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Beyond limit you depend on my tranquility
You seize freely the abundance of my reach
farther than your sight, you can't live without me

But slowly i am becoming weary
Polluted by your power, I succumbed slowly
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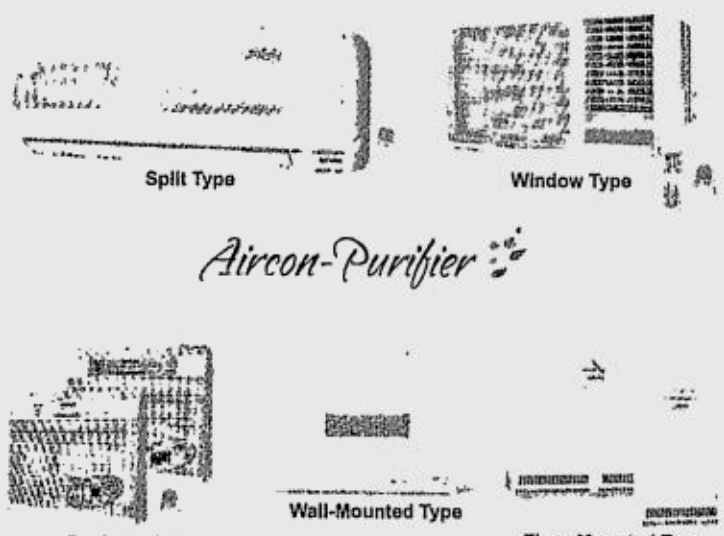

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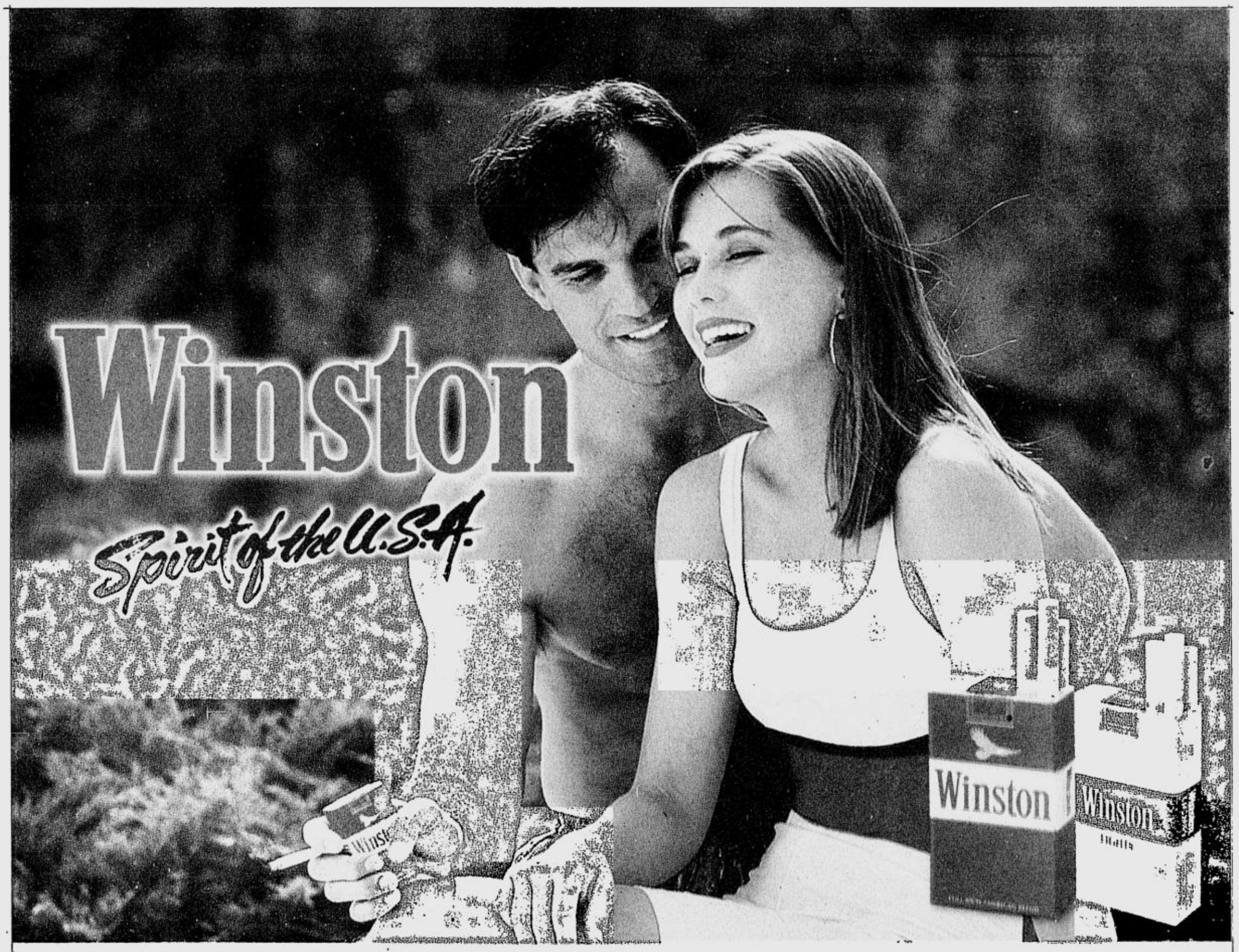

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Foreign fighters smuggling in suicide bombers into Iraq

BAGHDAD—A core group of foreign fighters in Iraq are smuggling in suicide bombers from Arab countries to carry out attacks like Monday's five bombings in Baghdad, according to senior coalition military and intelligence sources.

About 200-400 foreign fighters are currently estimated to be in Iraq, but they serve mainly as a nucleus which plans, finances and undertakes logistics for the lethal operations, a senior military officer said.

The allegations came as US President George W. Bush fingered Saddam Hussein's followers and "foreign terrorists" in Monday's five suicide bombings in Baghdad, which killed 43 people and wounded at least 200 more.

When it comes to the actual attacks, the plotters are recruiting their car bombers from hotbeds of anti-US sentiment and Islamic militancy, the officer said.

"The 200-400 are the operators and activists. They're not the ones blowing themselves up. They'll bring those guys who are willing to give up their lives," he said.

Potential bombers and foot soldiers hail from the Palestinian territories, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and possibly as far afield as Chechnya, with arrangements being made to pay off the suicide bombers families, he said.

The one would-be bomber captured in Monday's attacks was a Yemeni with a Syrian passport.

The coalition officer conceded the network's guerrilla-style cells were elaborate enough that the bombers and foot soldiers would have no idea about who was really behind the attacks.

A senior intelligence officer investigating the bombings also said it was likely that the masterminds of the attack imported their suicide bombers in the countdown to Monday's killing spree.

"We're definitely looking at this very possibility. It's probable," he said.

He described the fighters as having "a very solid logistical support network" in place—a necessity to carry out the macabre feat of five suicide bombings in 45 minutes around the capital.

"It would take weeks or months to plan an attack like this. My guess would be months," he said.

"They needed to coordinate five attacks with five vehicles, find loads of explosives, rig the cars, hide the cars, finance the operations and pay the family of the suicide bombers.

"You need familiarity with the city of Baghdad. You need some safe houses, some places to work on the cars." *AFP*

US tank disabled; 2 Americans killed

BAGHDAD—Two American soldiers were killed when their Abrams battle tank was damaged by resistance fighters, and seven Ukrainian troops were wounded in the first ambush of a multinational unit in the Polish sector south of Baghdad, coalition officials said Wednesday.

The tank was disabled when it was struck by a land mine or a roadside bomb Tuesday night during a patrol near Balad, 70 km of Baghdad, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, a spokesperson for the 4th Infantry Division. A third crewman was evacuated to a US hospital in Germany, she said.

It was believed to be the first M1 Abrams main battle tank destroyed since the end of major combat May 1. During the active combat phase, several of the 68-ton vehicles—the mainstay of the US Army's armored forces—were disabled in combat.

The latest attacks, including a nighttime mortar barrage in Baghdad, followed a day of violence in which insurgents targeted American forces and Iraqis who work with the occupation authorities. US officials also announced that Baghdad's Deputy Mayor Faris Abdul Razzaq al-Assam was killed Sunday in a drive-by shooting.

The proliferation of attacks on Iraqis allied with the occupation bodes ill for attempts by the US-led authorities to persuade more Iraqis to join in administering the country and play a greater role in providing security. Resistance forces have targeted several prominent figures, including Aquila al-Hashimi, a member of the Governing Council, who was fatally shot on Sept. 20.

A spokesperson for the multinational division at Camp Babylon said the attack on the Ukrainians occurred when two of their armored personnel carriers rolled over land mines near Suwayrah about 60 km southeast of Baghdad.

After the vehicles were disabled, unidentified gunmen opened fire on the disembarked soldiers, the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

About 1,650 Ukrainians are serving in the Polish-led stabilization force patrolling central and southern Iraq.

In Baghdad, half a dozen mortar rounds exploded late Tuesday in an upscale Jadriya neighborhood across the Tigris River from the US-led coalition headquarters but caused no damage or casualties, the US military said Wednesday.

One landed in a field close to a palace once occupied by one of Saddam Hussein's daughters, now a headquarters for the US civil-military affairs command. Another struck Baghdad University's College of Physical Education, damaging the wall of an enclosed volleyball court. There were no casualties in the shelling.

In Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, insurgents fired late Tuesday on the south gate at the main US military base there. At least one American soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was wounded, witnesses said. A patrol was sent out to search for the assailants, who fled after firing on the troops from a nearby rooftop.

And a US military convoy was attacked Tuesday night by small arms fire in the northern city of Mosul, the military said. There were no casualties.

Rockets were fired Tuesday night at a US military compound in the oil center of Kirkuk, according to Saleh Sabah, a member of the Iraqi National Accord which has offices near the compound. *AP*

Private study says 13,000 Iraqis died in invasion

WASHINGTON—An estimated 13,000 Iraqis, including 4,300 non-combatants, were killed during the major combat phase of the war in Iraq, a research group found in a study made public Tuesday.

The Project on Defense Alternatives said its estimate was based on a review of US combat data, battlefield press reports, and Iraqi hospital surveys. The study covered the period from March 19 to April 30.

The Pentagon has refrained from making estimates of Iraqi dead in either the 1991 Gulf War or the latest conflict.

The study, authored by Carl Coneta, found that deaths of Iraqi civilians who did not take up arms in the fighting was as high or higher than in the 1991 Gulf War despite advances in precision weaponry.

"On the Iraqi side, a review and analysis of the available evidence shows that approximately 11,000 to 15,000 Iraqis, combatants and non-combatants, were killed in the course of major combat operations," the study said.

"Of the total number of Iraqi fatalities during the relevant period, approximately 30 percent (or between 3,200 and 4,300) were non-combatant civilians—that is civilians who did not take up arms," the report said. *AFP*

A DEER runs past flames from the Old Fire near the 15 Freeway in Devore, California. AP

'Worst disaster to hit California'

LOS ANGELES—More than 11,000 firefighters were Wednesday battling California's worst ever wildfires that have killed at least 18 people, destroyed 2,000 homes, and forced tens of thousands into shelters.

The sky over the second largest US city, Los Angeles, was painted an eerie hue of orange as a thick pall of smoke from fires burning over at least 224,000 hectares blocked out the sun.

Giant plumes of smoke stretched miles up into the sky and were visible from space, as well over 50,000 residents of mountainous areas east of here fled their homes as flames exploded through fire cordons.

"This may well be the worst disaster the state has faced," outgoing Gov. Gray Davis said Tuesday of the 14 fires, many of which are now thought to have been sparked by arsonists.

"I expect the cost in the next few days to near $2 billion," he said, adding that the figure included loss of infrastructure, relief and firefighting efforts.

Davis also declared a state of emergency in a fifth county in southern California, Riverside, where a new blaze is raging, two days after doing so in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

The Office of Emergency Services said the fires burning in the south of the most populous US state and had killed at least 16 people in California and consumed well over half a million acres.

A further two people died in Mexico after the flames jumped the border at San Diego. Officials in California said more dead were certain to be found in the disaster zones when the flames clear.

"This fire was so fast," said Glenn Wagner, San Diego County's chief medical examiner. "I'm sure we're going to find folks who simply never had a chance to get out of their houses." *AFP*

Afghanistan becoming failed narco-state, says UN

MOSCOW—Afghanistan, the world's leading producer of opium, risks becoming a failed state once again in the hands of drugs cartels and narco-terrorists, the United Nations warned Wednesday.

Opium cultivation was virtually eradicated in 2001 by the hardline Taliban regime, but since it was forced from power two years ago, Afghanistan has massively resumed harvesting and now accounts for three-quarters of global opium production, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said in its latest annual report.

"The country is clearly at a crossroads. Either major surgical drug-control measures are taken now, or the drug cancer in Afghanistan will keep spreading and metastatize into corruption, violence and terrorism," UN anti-drugs chief Antonio Maria Costa said in the report.

"There is a palpable risk that Afghanistan will again turn into a failed state, this time in the hands of drugs cartels and narco-terrorists," he added.

In the war-ravaged country, this year the area under opium poppy cultivation increased by 8 percent, from 74,000 hectares in 2002 to 80,000 in 2003, the Vienna-based body said in its report, due to be presented in Moscow on Wednesday.

Opium production went up by 6 percent, from 3,400 to 3,600 tons.

Even more alarmingly, 28 out of 32 provinces in Afghanistan now harvest the drug crop, up from 18 provinces in 1999, as cultivation spreads outside the traditional eastern and southern producing areas.

The total revenues earned by poppy farmers and traffickers amounted to more than half of Afghanistan's gross domestic product of $4.4 billion.

"The income of Afghan opium farmers and traffickers was about $2.3 billion, a sum equivalent to half the legitimate GDP of the country," the report said.

"Out of this drug chest, some provincial administrators and military commanders take a considerable share: the more they get used to this, the less likely it becomes that they will respect the law, be loyal to Kabul and support the legal economy.

"Terrorists take a cut as well, the longer this happens, the greater the threat to security within the country and on its borders," Costa said. *AFP*

Israelis kill Palestinian approaching Gaza fence

AMID the violence, a Palestinian boy celebrates with a homemade sparkler after breaking the Ramadan fast in Gaza City. AP

JERUSALEM—Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man and injured another Wednesday after the pair crossed into a restricted area around the fence that separates Gaza from Israel, military sources said.

Israeli officials said they were considering slightly easing month-old closures that have kept millions of Palestinians out of Israel and confined many to their West Bank communities.

Two people approached the fence from the Gaza side near Nahal Oz on Wednesday morning, entering the 150-meter-wide restricted zone, before troops opened fire, the Army said.

One man was killed and the other injured. The men had no weapons, but were carrying cellular phones, maps of the area and intelligence about Army patrols there, the military said. They were apparently collecting information for a future attack, the military said.

The dead man's family identified him as Mohammed Awad, 26, a supporter of the Islamic Jihad militant group. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Issue of human cloning splits UN

UNITED NATIONS—After Iraq and the Middle East, the United Nations is now divided again over another life-and-death question—whether human beings should be cloned in the name of medical research. Supporters say limited cloning could help treat killer diseases like AIDS while opponents argue the freedom to manufacture embryos in a laboratory opens an ethical minefield on the cutting edge of modern science. The two competing visions will face off as early as this week if backers of "therapeutic cloning" push a vote in the UN General Assembly that will spell out society's willingness to take the task of creation into its own hands. Costa Rica, the United States, the Philippines and more than 50 other nations, backed by the Vatican, want a worldwide convention banning all forms of human cloning by next year. *AFP*

Businessman writes plea for help on check

HONG KONG—A businessman from the tiny Pacific island of Nauru was caught in a kidnapping-and-extortion plot by men who marched him into a bank for money, but he got out of it by writing on the back of a check: "Don't cash it. Dial 999." A teller raised the alarm, and police rushed to the bank to rescue the man, police spokesperson Serene Ng said. The phone number for emergency dispatchers in Hong Kong is 999. Up to nine people are believed to have been involved in the scheme, but only one was caught at the bank and the others remain at large, Ng said. *AP*

Senior cult leader sentenced to death

TOKO—A court has sentenced a senior leader of the Aum Supreme Truth cult to death for multiple murder in the 1995 Tokyo subway sarin gas attack and 10 other crimes. Tomomasa Nakagawa, a 41-year-old former physician and right-hand man of sect founder Shoko Asahara, became the 10th member of the doomsday cult to face the death penalty. Marathon trials of Aum Supreme Truth members are reaching a climax as the defense will offer its closing argument on Thursday in the trial of the cult's guru Asahara, 48, whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto. The verdict is due to be handed down on Feb. 27 next year. *AFP*

'Most evil place in Afghanistan'

KABUL—The mountainous border region where two CIA operatives were ambushed and killed is regularly the scene of the heaviest combat in the country—treacherous ground the US military calls "the most evil place in Afghanistan." The CIA said Tuesday that William Carlson, 43, of Southern Pines, North Carolina, and Christopher Glenn Mueller, 32, of San Diego, California were killed Saturday near the village in Shkin in Paktika province while "tracking terrorists." Both were veterans of military special operations forces, the agency said, who were working for the CIA's Directorate of Operations that conducts clandestine intelligence-gathering and covert operations. *AFP*

Global e-mails enough to fill 500,000 Libraries of Congress

NEW YORK—All those e-mails—junk or otherwise—are adding up.

In 2002, people around the globe created enough new information to fill 500,000 US Libraries of Congress, according to a study by faculty and students at the University of California at Berkeley.

The 5 billion gigabytes of new data works out to about 800 megabytes per person—the equivalent of a stack of books 9 meters high—the study by the university's School of Information Management and Systems found.

That's a 30-percent increase in stored information from 1999, the last time the global study was conducted.

The information area with the biggest percentage increase in data was, unsurprisingly, hard disk drives. The study found the amount of stored information on these increasingly high-capacity storage media rose by up to 114 percent from the previous study in 1999.

The study also put to rest any lingering myths about the paperless office. The amount of information stored on paper, including books, journals and office documents, increased up to 43 percent in 2002 compared to 1999.

"We thought in our (last) study that film and paper would head toward digital formats," UC Berkeley Prof. Peter Lyman said.

With paper, that has not been the case, as people access documents on their computer, but then print them out, he said.

But photography is fulfilling his initial expectations.

"Individual photographs are really moving quickly to digital cameras, or even image-producing telephones," Lyman said. That helped contribute to a decline of up to 9 percent in film-based photographs in 2002 compared with 1999, and fueled the growth of magnetic storage. *Reuters*

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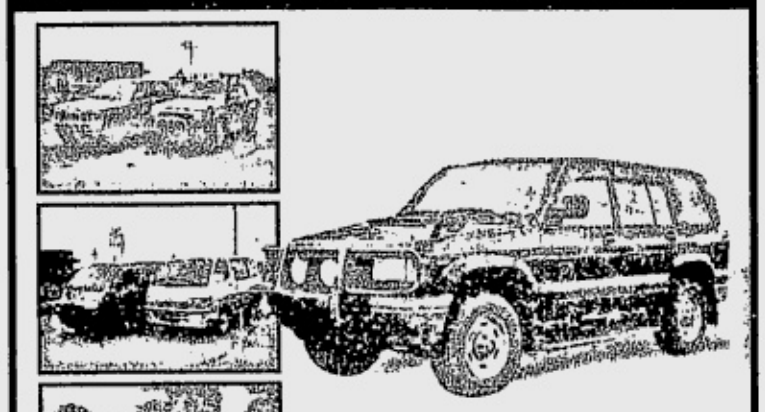

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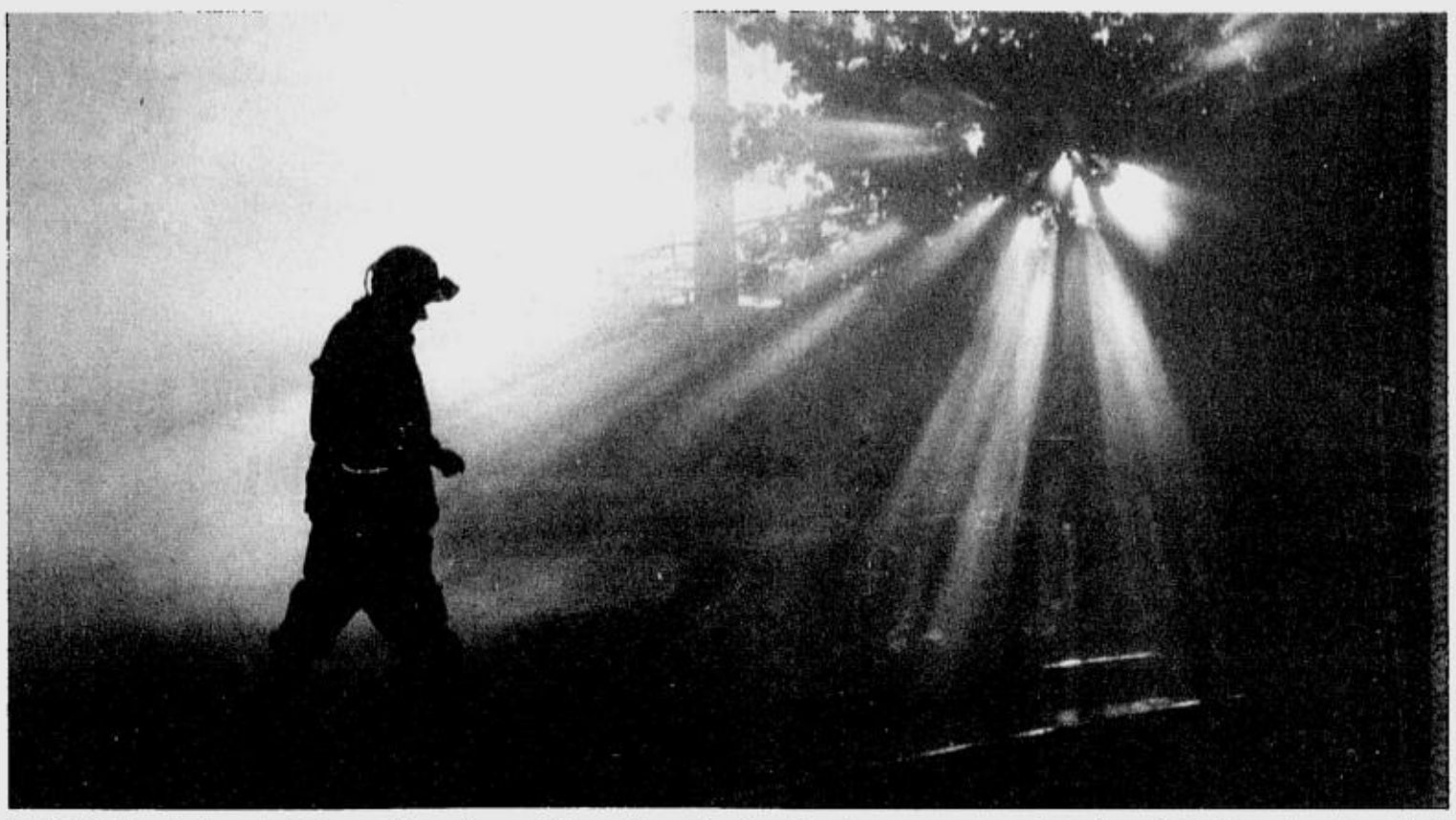


A RUSSIAN coal miner strolls toward the entrance of the southern Russian mine where rescue teams later brought to the surface alive all but two of 33 trapped miners. REUTERS

Rescuers find alive majority of 13 trapped Russian miners

NOVOSHAKHTINSK, Russia—Rescue workers found alive a majority of 13 miners who had been trapped deep underground for six days. One of the miners died, one was missing and 11 others survived, officials of the regional rescue headquarters said.

Meanwhile, in the Russian Far East, an explosion in a mine in the Primorye region, claimed five lives. Another 66 miners were rescued after an explosion in the "Tsentralnaya Mine" in the town of Partizansk, Viktor Beltsov, a spokesperson for the Russian emergency situations ministry said.

At the mine in southern Russia, the men were located Wednesday morning, when drillers managed to break through to the pitface where the miners had sought refuge, the officials said. The miners were to be brought up to the surface later Wednesday.

Rescuers had tunneled through solid rock from an adjacent mine to reach the miners, who had been stranded by icy water. Emergency officials had worked to plug the hole through which water had flowed into the shaft. Hundreds of tons of rock, soil and reinforced concrete pillars had been dumped into the shaft to seal the leak.

Emergency workers on Tuesday had stopped the flow of water into a flooded mine in southern Russia, officials said, as drillers came within meters of the men's presumed location.

Rescuers tunneled through solid rock from an adjacent mine to reach the miners. By Tuesday morning, the tunnelers were two to three meters away from the area where the men are believed to have been stranded by the flood of icy water, said Maj. Gen. Viktor Kapkanchikov of Russia's emergency situations ministry.

Andrei Khudyakov, leader of rescuers at the Zapadnaya mine in Novoshakhtinsk, said his team had plugged the hole through which water had flowed into the shaft. Hundreds of tons of rock, soil and reinforced concrete pillars had been dumped into the shaft to seal the leak, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

"Maybe we'll punch through and find them standing there, alive," Khudyakov told reporters.

The rescue teams were working in shifts, emerging from the mine with blackened faces and exhausted-looking eyes. They have tunneled through about 50 meters in four days, compared with the month such a job usually requires, Russian state television reported.

The miners were working some 800 meters below ground last Thursday when water from a subterranean lake leaked into a shaft above them, blocking their way to the surface. On Saturday, 33 other miners who had been trapped by the flood were rescued.

Lyubov Tkach said her husband Sergei had been with the 33 but that he got separated. She sat in the mine company headquarters on Tuesday, her eyes red-rimmed from crying, waiting for news.

"We are all in despair," she said. "But I hope he is alive and didn't go far from the place where he got lost. I really hope everything will be fine."

Alexander Kornichenko, deputy chair of the Russian mine safety authority, said Monday that rescue officials believed the miners had found a dry place to stay, and that temperatures in the mine were 24 degrees Celsius. He said, however, that evaporation in the mine could expose them to cold.

"As long as they have oxygen and water, they have a chance to survive," he said.

There were 71 miners working in the mine in the Rostov-on-Don region, about 1,000 km south of Moscow, when the accident occurred. Twenty-five miners managed to escape to other pits and reach the surface after several shafts were flooded.

It was the second such accident at the Zapadnaya mine this year. It said water flooded the mine in February, but there were no people inside at the time.

Accidents are common in the Russian coal industry, and miners stage frequent protests over wage delays and declining safety standards. According to the Independent Coal Miners' Union, 68 miners were killed on the job last year and 98 in 2001. *AP*

Ex-paramilitary fighters free 4 journalists

LA LIBERTAD, Guatemala—Former paramilitary fighters released seven people, including four journalists, on Tuesday after the government promised to pay them for their services during Guatemala's 36-year civil war.

Catalina Soberanis, head of a government organization in charge of monitoring the country's peace process, said the government signed a document in which it promised to pay the former fighters.

Former members of the paramilitary Civilian Self-Defense Patrols, formed by the government in 1982 to help it fight leftist guerrillas, seized the hostages on Sunday.

Prensa Libre reporter Fredy Lopez and photographer Emerson Diaz were arriving in La Libertad on Sunday to cover a planned demonstration when they were taken hostage. Two other journalists who came to report on the seizure, Mario Linares and Alberto Ramirez, also were captured.

"I feel very relieved because with these people (the former paramilitaries) we didn't know what could happen and I believed we were not going to get out of this," Diaz said.

The paramilitary groups were disbanded in 1996 as part of an agreement that ended the country's civil war and have been demanding compensation ever since.

In July 2002, paramilitaries staged protests across the country to demand $2,500 a person for their services. The government agreed to pay compensation, but reduced the amount to $650 to be paid in three installments.

Gonzalo Marroquin, director of Prensa Libre, said Linares had called him "and he told me: 'We're free.'"

The apparent government flexibility came despite a speech Monday night by Vice President Juan Reyes who said, "We are not in a position to negotiate in the face of this type of measures" by the paramilitaries.

In a radio interview before the release was announced, Linares said the paramilitaries had forced the captives to sleep outside and he said the number holding them had grown to about 5,000 from 300 a day earlier. *AP*

Socialists map strategy to fight US domination

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Left-leaning politicians from around the world worked Tuesday on a declaration against US-style regime changes and the spread of unfettered capitalism.

Speakers at the 22nd Socialist International Congress criticized a new world order where rich countries and corporations benefit while the planet's legions of poor only grow larger.

"There is no doubt, the world we face every day is an unjust world," said Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Margareta Winberg. "It is a world that lacks balance, it is a world where there is a lot of room for improvement. That is why we are here—to bring about change."

Delegates spent Tuesday fine-tuning a "Declaration of Sao Paulo" expected to be approved Wednesday, the last day of the three-day gathering of 600 delegates from 150 political parties from Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa.

Many of the draft document's points echoed ideas espoused for years by anti-globalization activists and for months by opponents of US military intervention in Iraq.

Although the draft did not cite the US administration of President George W. Bush by name, it blamed conservatives for trying "to undermine multilateral institutions, to promote unilateralism and the consecration of the market, and to impose the will of the powerful to decide the future of mankind."

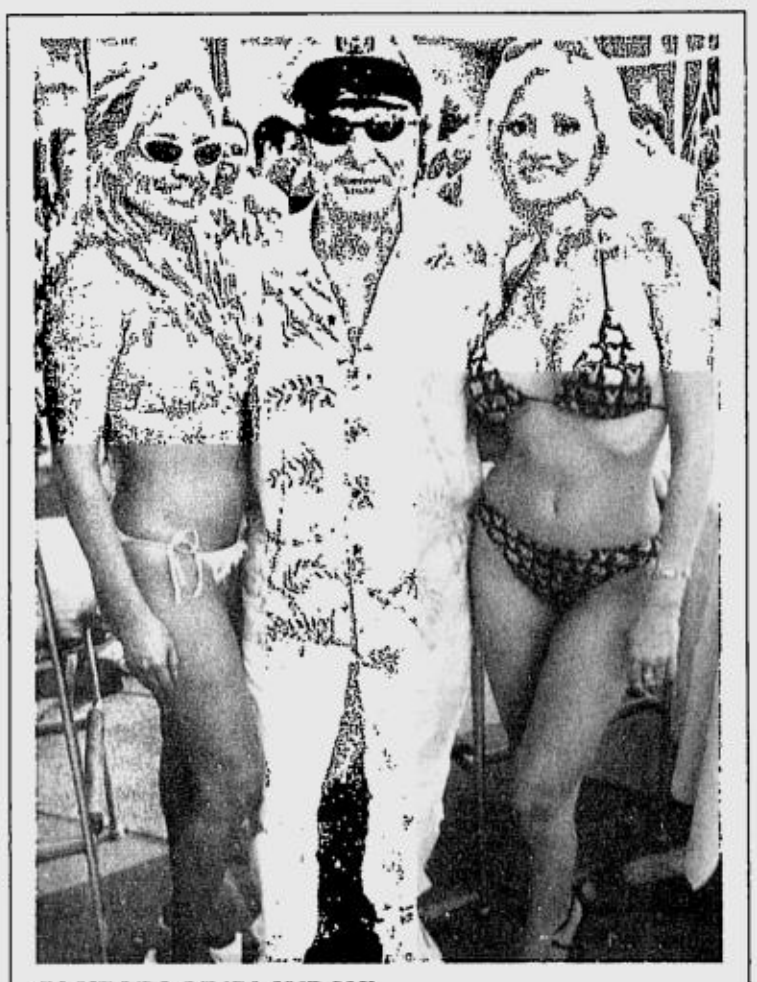
And it reiterated the decades-old idea of forgiving debt owed by the planet's poorest countries, "subject to conditions of good governance."

Delegates acknowledged that many of the draft's points are not new, but said the declaration is important to help center-left politicians guide their future policy moves.

"This draft is a confirmation of all we have been doing in recent years," said Aminata Mbengue, a leader of Senegal's Socialist Party.

Antonio Gallicchio, of Uruguay's center-left Nuevo Espacio party, said the document resonated because it came on the heels of a mounting worldwide public opinion supporting issues important to the Socialist International.

The group "appears slow in deciding, but acts on pressing current issues," he said. *AP*



50 YEARS OF 'PLAYBOY'
"Playboy" publisher Hugh Hefner (center) celebrates his magazine's 50th anniversary at the Palms hotel in Las Vegas, one of the 50 American cities where the magazine is throwing a party this year. AP

New York safest US city, says mayor

NEW YORK—New York City's crime rate in 2002 sunk to levels not seen since the 1960s, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday, boasting that it was the safest city in the United States.

In 2002, the crime rate in New York sunk 5 percent compared to the previous year, Bloomberg said in a joint statement along with Police Chief Raymond Kelly in which they publicized newly released FBI figures.

New York's overall crime rate of 3,100 per 100,000 population is 25 percent lower than the national rate of 4,119, the officials said.

"The safest big city in America keeps getting safer," Bloomberg crowed. "While the conventional wisdom said New York's crime rate would increase in a recession and fiscal crisis, the police department proved it wrong and showed once again why they are the finest in the world."

Homicides in 2002 fell 9.6 percent against the previous year—which was 2001, when some 2,801 were killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"In 2002, homicides fell to their lowest level since 1963, when Mayor Robert F. Wagner was in City Hall and President John F. Kennedy was in the White House," Kelly said.

The homicide rate for 2003 "is again on track to end the year at either the lowest or second lowest rate in 40 years," he said.

"All of this is being done at a time when the department has 4,000 fewer officers than just three years ago, and when we must now focus a tremendous amount of resources on counterterrorism," he added. *AFP*

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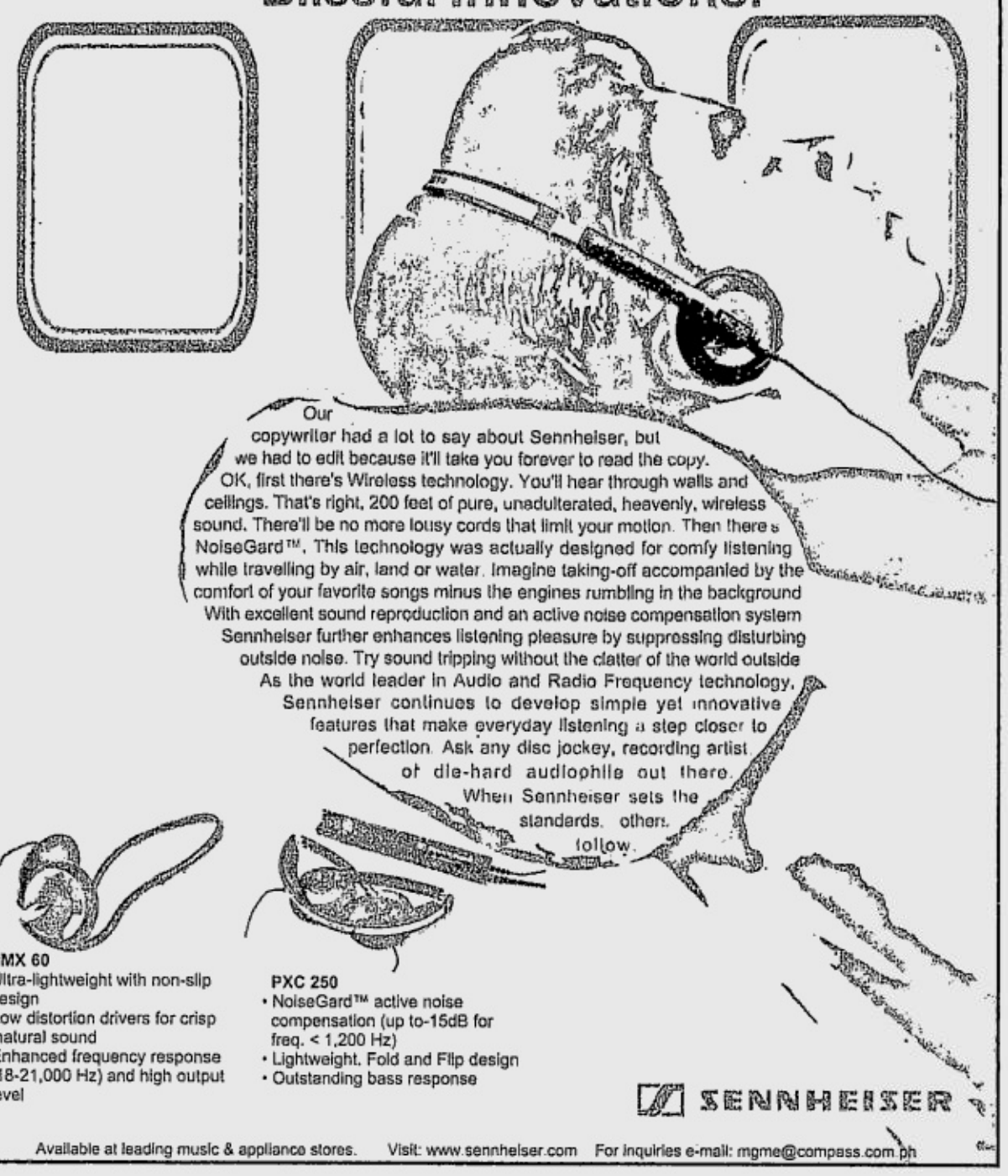

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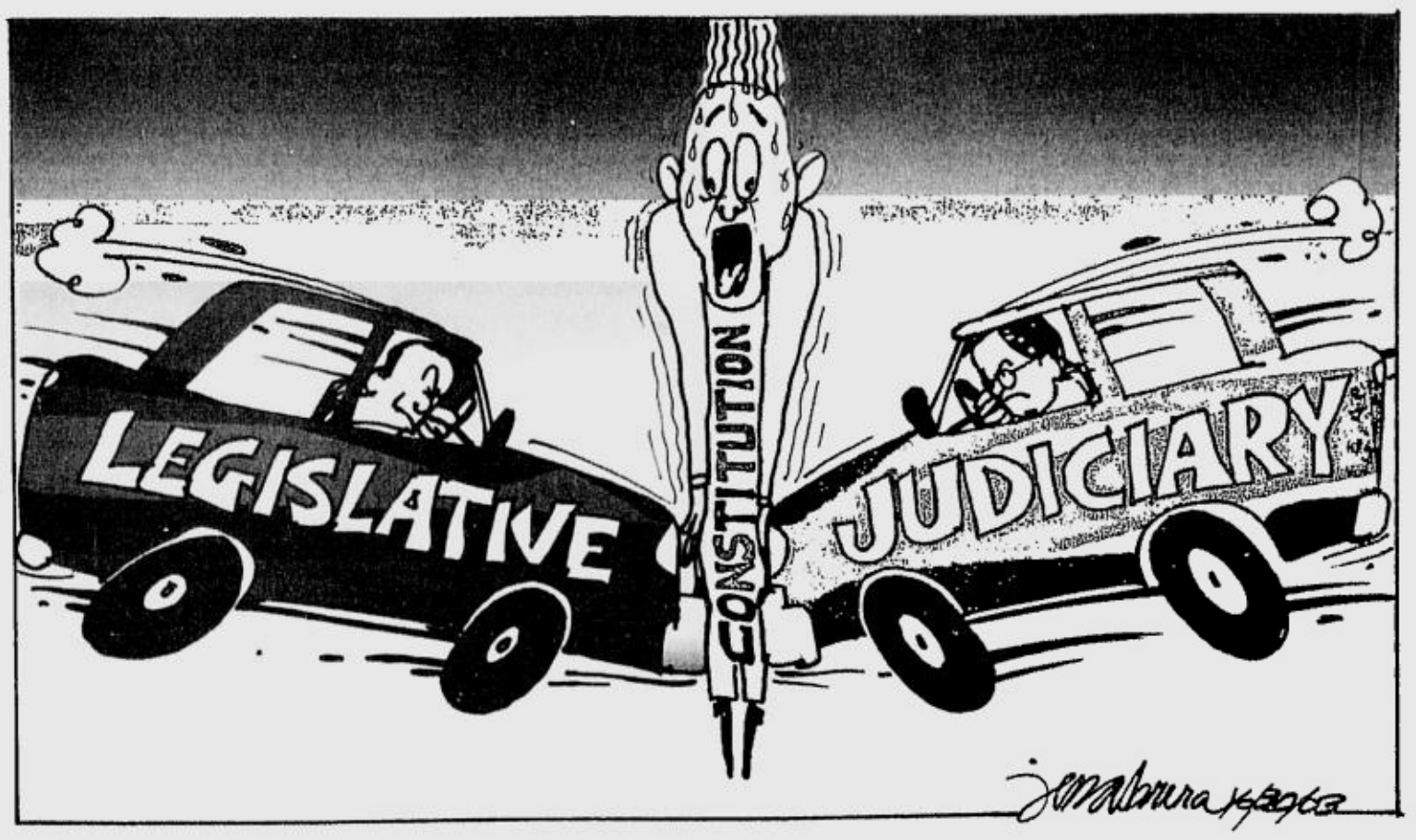

Truce

THE DAVIDE impeachment express train was derailed last Tuesday when the House of Representatives and the Senate adjourned their session until Nov. 10, averting a head-on collision between the Supreme Court and Congress over the impeachment complaint.

In a deft parliamentary maneuver, the adjournment in effect stopped the complaint from being transmitted by the House, during the recess, to the Senate. This would have forced the Senate to start the impeachment trial. In effect, the adjournment put a truce in place, until Congress resumes its session.

EDITORIAL

This de facto moratorium came during a day of dramatic developments in the escalating constitutional crisis provoked by the impeachment complaint, among which was the order of the Supreme Court calling on Congress to maintain the "status quo" and urging the parties "to refrain from committing acts that would render the petitions moot." The Court issued the "status quo" resolution in response to six petitions questioning the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint and seeking the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the transmittal of the complaint to the Senate. It stopped short of issuing an order but couched its action in diplomatic words, apparently to avoid further inflaming passions in the House of Representatives.

Neither did the adjournment of the session nor the Court's resolution put an end to the escalating crisis. They merely broke the momentum of the impeachment from over-heating and exploding into a full-blown crisis and provided a cooling-off period which might allow the production of successful initiatives to break the stand-off.

Now that this delaying mechanism has postponed a showdown between the two co-equal branches of government, it seems out of place and irresponsible for the members of Congress associated with business tycoon Eduardo M. Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition to fuel tensions by issuing combative statements that they are not bound by the House adjournment and by the Court's resolution. They begged the question by resorting to finger-pointing, blaming the Court for provoking the crisis by maintaining that the complaint was unconstitutional and accusing the Court of aggravating the crisis with this resolution.

On the basis of incontrovertible facts, the crisis was sparked by the rushing of the complaint in the House where NPC congressmen, with the aid of several administration Lakas colleagues, cut corners, bypassing the House committee on justice. From their unreasonable reactions, we get the sense that the NPC and its allies are not at all interested in settling the controversy and are rather determined to force a showdown with the Supreme Court—a confrontation that is likely to plunge the country into its most dangerous constitutional crisis since World War II.

The Court still has to resolve the issues raised in the petitions seeking a TRO. It will still hear arguments by lawyers, at least during the congressional recess. While the truce is in place (with the leadership of both the House and the Senate indicating they would respect the status quo), a number of groups have begun to fish in troubled waters. Not least are the Magdalo officers who sprang the failed July 27 coup, who have praised the authors of the impeachment action.

It would of course serve the interests of the officers if the constitutional system is plunged into a crisis. The Feliciano Commission, which inquired into the coup, has concluded that the Oakwood siege was spurred not by the officers' grievances but more by their desire for power. The commission's report found that the officers have no respect for the constitutional system; they have as little respect for it as the cabal of congressmen who provoked the crisis with their hastily and maliciously contrived impeachment complaint. The congressmen who sprang the complaint that has attacked the judicial system now find themselves in good company with the impetuous failed coup plotters.

The truce gives the nation a respite from crisis hysteria. It buys time during which creative solutions might be evolved to break the stand-off. Hot heads promoting narrow business interests are better warned that should they succeed in breaking down the constitutional system, they too cannot escape the convulsions of an anarchy they are fueling.

Compromise excludes the public again

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WAIT a minute. In the haste of peacemakers to forge a compromise between the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court to ward off the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., they have forgotten the people, owners of the money that is the root cause of the problem. *Puwera na naman sila.*

Under the formula proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Supreme Court will acknowledge the "oversight powers" of the House over it and the House will acknowledge the "fiscal autonomy" of the Court. Then the impeachment complaint will be withdrawn and Davide can go back to the tribunal and everybody will be happy. The "honor" of both sides will be saved.

But what about the people who paid the fees to the courts that made up the Judiciary Development Fund? Don't they have a right to know how their money was spent? What happened to the people's right to information? What happened to "transparency"?

The congressmen who filed and signed the impeachment complaint are the first offenders. "I hope they had read the Articles of Impeachment and understood it before they criticized us," Rep. Gilbert Remulla said at the Kapihan sa Manila. Rep. Constantino Jaraula said he hoped "Cardinal Sin, President Cory, and Raul Roco have read the merits of the case... and understand the reasons why we filed this (impeachment) complaint." They said they have evidence to prove their case. Other congressmen said they did not want to sign at first but when they saw these documents, they felt it was their duty to sign.

But these impeachment lawmakers are keeping their cards very close to their chests. I asked them why they have not released these documents to the media and the public. Remulla and Jaraula said yes, they would. But until now, nothing.

How can the media inform the public of the contents of the Articles of Impeachment and the evidence supporting them if the congressmen don't release copies to them? How will the public appreciate the merits of their cause?

According to the congressmen's verbal accusations, Davide was guilty of extravagance, and probably graft and corruption, spending hundreds of millions of pesos for curtains, furniture, luxury vehicles and luxury cottages in Baguio for Supreme Court justices. They said 80 percent of the JDF is supposed to go to court employees in the form of cost-of-living allowances. The Supreme Court is supposed to use only 20 percent of the JDF for furniture and other expenses of the tribunal. But Davide and his son Bryan have already exceeded that, they said.

Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said the curtains purchased by the Court would be "more at home at Buckingham Palace than in Padre Faura." She said Davide authorized the use of P5.57 million for the curtains. That "price is too high for curtains unless it is made of pure silk," she said. "At P100 per meter of curtain material, the prevailing price in shopping malls, the P5.57 million could buy 55,700 meters of curtain cloth." That is almost 56 kilometers long. "One can hang that curtain along the whole stretch of the South Superhighway."

Another P8.1 million has been authorized for the purchase of "loose furniture," the lawmakers said. The chairs for justices allegedly cost P120,000 each. "Not even a king deserves that throne," said Rep. Agapito Aquino. The cost of a chair for one justice can already "build a house for the poor."

In contrast to this extravagance, judiciary employees were underpaid by as much as P500 million during the years 2000 to 2002, the impeachment complaint charged.

These verbal accusations have aroused the curiosity and intrigued the public. Are they true? They want to see the evidence. But the congressmen are too secretive. What's the matter, your "evidence" is not convincing enough?

I am sure the Chief Justice can explain away these charges. But he refuses to explain except for a letter to Speaker De Venecia which the latter also refuses to release to the public. Yet the offended party here is the public because the money allegedly misspent belongs to the people.

So the proposed compromise for the House and Supreme Court to acknowledge each other's powers, shake hands and go home untarnished won't satisfy the public. They would be left in the dark again. Was our money misspent or not? Were the judiciary employees cheated of their allowances or not? The people won't know.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, president of the Philippine Constitutional Association, said a mere compromise would not dispel "the people's suspicions" fueled by the impeachment complaint. It will also be a "disservice" to Davide and to the judicial system if civil society groups supporting him, including court judges, continue holding sympathy rallies or mass leaves, Enrile added.

Would it not be better for all concerned, especially the public, if the impeachment complaint is withdrawn but the House makes public its charges and evidence, and the Chief Justice rebuts them one by one? That way, there would be no trial but Davide would still be able to defend himself. Even if the complaint is withdrawn but the Chief Justice is still not allowed to explain the expenses, a cloud of doubt would continue to hang over him. I think all concerned owe the people an explanation.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: What is the difference between a mudfish and the NPC congressmen who initiated the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide?

Answer: One is a bottom-dwelling, s--t-eating mud-sucker; the other one is a fish.

Hour of reckoning

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE written several times about the need to uphold truth and justice even when the welfare of a hallowed institution rests on it. That was what the famous Dreyfus case was all about. Alfred Dreyfus was the French captain who was accused of selling secrets to the enemy and jailed for life. It turned out he was innocent, according to evidence that came to light a couple of years later. The military however refused to budge, fearing that the idea it resorted to a kangaroo court could damage its image. Dreyfus, an innocent man, had to rot in jail to preserve its honor.

It was Emile Zola who railed against that injustice, arraigning it with his famous tract, "I Accuse." His point, among other things, was that an institution that wreaks an iniquity does not preserve its honor, it dishonors itself. An institution that sanctions a crime does not preserve itself, it destroys itself.

I've invoked the same principle repeatedly, not least in the cases of Acsa Ramirez and Teodoro Bacani. Both called for upholding an iniquity to save an institution. In Ramirez's case, GMA and Reynaldo Wycoco refused to acknowledge their mistake to save the presidency, whose honor they thought would be tarnished by the correction. In Bacani's case, his supporters demanded that the woman who charged him with sexual harassment drop her suit because it would impugn the Church's integrity. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I'd be the first to invoke the same principle on Hilario Davide if the impeachment case against him by Danding Cojuangco's and Jose de Venecia's mob in Congress had merit. The slogan, "Save Davide, Save Democracy, Save the Country," would resonate only with irony if it meant mounting it on the bones of iniquity. Democracy is not saved by defending crookedness, the country is not saved by ignoring wrongdoing, the Supreme Court is not saved by fomenting injustice. If Davide has been false to his calling, the only way the Supreme Court, democracy, and this country can be saved is by punishing him for it.

But nothing is farther from the truth. I leave Davide to defend himself against the charge he misused public funds. He does not need anyone to defend him there; he's done a good job of it himself. But what makes this **not** another Dreyfus case is that that what is being championed here are not truth and justice but their very opposite: duplicity and injustice.

This isn't just a case of those who presume to have no sin demanding to cast the first stone, since those who cast the first stone are only as guilty as the person they are stoning. This is a case of the sinful demanding to stone the (reasonably) sinless. The impeachers say the principle here is that no man may be above the law. I agree 101 percent. But if so, then they should look at themselves, not at Davide.

As the people who rallied at the Batasan last Monday pointed out, can anything be more crooked than the way the congressmen use their Countryside Development Fund? Indeed, can anything be more baneful than the CDF itself, also called pork barrel? That thing did not get associated with swine for reasons that have to do with the Chinese calendar. The CDF is the most institutionalized form of pillage in this country. The calls for government to scrap the pork barrel and put the money in the hands of local officials have been loud and persistent. But the ease with which the congressmen have moved to impeach Davide has been matched only by their ferocity in blocking any move to scrap the CDF.

While at this, the ease with which they moved to impeach Davide is matched only by their reticence in impeaching Aniano Desierto and Luz Tancangco for various counts of graft. Indeed, never mind those two, notwithstanding that the case against them is infinitely less capricious than the one hurled at Davide. Does anyone burn (taxpayers') money like a drunken sailor more than De Venecia, as reporters themselves can testify to? And still never mind him. Does anyone deserve to be impeached more than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself? Graft and corruption should be the least of her worries—though surely the overpricing of a small road named after Diosdado Macapagal by P631 million, as PEA director Sulficio Tagud himself exposed, qualifies as an impeachable offense? More than that, GMA has helped abduct the key witness in a corruption case against her husband and sanctioned the "salvaging" of a suspect as a gift to the US president. The evidence in both cases is glaring.

And still indeed, never mind her, mind only that Danding Cojuangco, the big boss of the NPC and the biggest Marcos crony, remains free today to torment a nation that should have put him behind bars long ago.

None of this, of course, means that Davide may not be held accountable. He should. But it is neither truth nor justice when you see people who deserve to burn at the stake putting straw around those whose feet they are not fit to kiss and pouring gasoline on it.

The congressmen "misunderestimate," to use George W. Bush's favorite word, the depth of public outrage. They are bigger fools than I take them to be if they cannot see the horrendous dangers of pushing through with their folly. A "constitutional crisis" is the least of their worries. This isn't just a game of who blinks first. There is another element in the equation, and that is the people. Filipinos may be duped and manipulated every now and then but they know intuitively—beyond the legal gobbledygook, beyond the fiscal legerdemain, even beyond the propaganda binges—when naked oppression is being done.

This is the hour of reckoning. The congressmen may not know it, but it's not Davide's head that is lying on the chopping block, waiting for the ax to fall.

It's theirs.

Salonga: Davide 'democratized' JDF disbursements

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SUDDEN adjournment of the House last Tuesday provided the nation a much-needed breathing spell, to cool down the hot passions stirred up by the Davide impeachment move. Of course, the young NPC hotheads like Representatives Gilberto Teodoro and Wimpy Fuentebella are upset that anti-impeachment Rep. Raul del Mar questioned the quorum and Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, who's also anti-impeachment, adjourned the session until Nov. 10. But the group can hardly complain, as it was announced last Monday night that the session would commence at 2 p.m. the next day—and they were not there. Moreover, to determine whether there really was no quorum, Gonzalez ordered a roll call, which produced only 62 members.

* * *

This respite should enable the leading minds to come up with solutions to this grave crisis. Many citizens plan to appeal to the sense of patriotism of the signatories to the complaint to withdraw their names. This is still the best solution: withdraw the impeachment complaint and let the House justice committee study various ways to check any abuses in the disbursement of the JDF, including amending or even repealing the Marcos decree that made disbursements the "sole prerogative" of the Chief Justice.

* * *

I can understand Davide's refusal to agree that the House impose its oversight function on the JDF. In the first place, the JDF, which was created by PD 1949 as added funding to ensure the Supreme Court's fiscal autonomy, is not appropriated by the House as part of the national budget. As Deputy Speaker Gonzalez pointed out to me, the JDF comes from increases in court fees and thus, strictly speaking, the House, from which emanate all appropriations such as those granted to the executive branch, has nothing to do with the JDF. He conceded that while the House has "oversight functions" over all appropriations created by law, such as those in the General Appropriations Act, the JDF, strictly speaking, does not fall under this category. Gonzalez stressed that Congress is in a similar position, as under Sec. 20 of Art. VI of the Constitution, its records and accounts shall be open to the public in accordance with law, but these shall be audited only by the COA. *Ang hirap sa mga* pro-impeachment lawmakers, *mainit ang mata nila sa* JDF, *pero hindi naman galing sa kanila iyon.*

* * *

When I saw the full-page ad published by the pro-impeachment bloc, my instinct was not to trust the NPC's handiwork, especially since it glosses over its boss' misuse of the multibillion-peso coco levy funds. A close reading of the ad reveals a lot of inaccuracies obviously designed to mislead the people into believing that Davide was corrupt. For instance, the ad says that P64,169,491.80 was spent on "renovation of the SC session hall in Manila" and in statements, the NPC alleged that over P5 million went into curtains, which, of course, is eye-popping. But it turns out that only P56 million, not P64 million, was spent for the renovation of practically the entire new Supreme Court building (which used to be the old DFA), not just the session hall, and this includes the en banc conference room, those of the three divisions and the entire lobby, as well as the conversion of the old memorabilia room into a division hearing room, and the construction of a new mezzanine floor above the session hall. On that basis, P5 million for curtains is justified.

* * *

The NPC ad also says that P34,679,491.80 was spent on "construction/repair of SC cottages and renovation of existing ones in Baguio City." This is closer to the truth, except that P32 million and not P34.6 million was spent on the construction of two new cottages for justices in the Supreme Court's summer compound that has been there since American colonial days. The two cottages were destroyed by the 1991 killer earthquake. Engineer Arnold Paradero, the supervising judicial staff officer in the committee on Hall of Justice secretariat, told me that what proved expensive was the strong foundation that had to be constructed under one cottage built close to a cliff. In addition, said Paradero, a new duplex with two housing units was also constructed, not only for visiting ex-justices and court guests, but also for the jurists' staffers who come up for the summer court.

* * *

A lot is being made by Davide's accusers about his son Bryan's serving as vice chair of the bidding committee, but they either do not know or refuse to divulge that he was only one of 12 members, and above him were the chair, Antonio H. Dujua, the assistant court administrator appointed by formed Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, and the co-chair, Virginia Soriano, the First Division clerk of court. This is, in fact, one reform Davide has introduced. As former Senate President Jovito Salonga pointed out in a press conference, he transformed his "sole exclusive power and duty" over the JDF into "an instrument of democracy." How? By appointing several committees to study, discuss and recommend to the entire Court the pertinent disbursement and expenditure of the JDF, with the Court making the final decision en banc, unlike his predecessor who chose to exercise the prerogative by himself. For instance, a committee on Halls of Justice was chaired by a justice, and for some time it was Justice Santiago Kapunan, who, Salonga stressed, was, on the basis of his voting record, "not only pro-Marcos and pro-Erap but also pro-Danding." Upon his retirement, he was replaced by Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, an Estrada appointee and "a pro-Danding dissenter." Salonga noted that all the disbursements and expenditures mentioned on Page 24 of the impeachment complaint were approved not just by Davide or by a regular quorum, but the whole court en banc.

'Balik-Sorsoganon'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR a half-Bicolana, I am only now finding out how miserably deficient is my knowledge of Bicolano "culture." For instance, I'd always thought that the *pili*, which for some reason seems to be identified solely with the region, was a nut, and grew on trees like chestnuts or walnuts. Only during lunch at the home of Sorsogon Gov. Rolly Lee and his wife, Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, did I find out that there is actually a *pili* fruit—dark-skinned and of the appearance of miniature eggplants.

The Lees served the fruits a little warm, the better to soften the skin which could be peeled off by slightly squeezing the pulp. "They taste best when dipped in a little *patis* or in sugar," suggested the mayor. Once the pulp is consumed, what's left of the *pili* is the seed pod, a dark, hard casing that shelters the famous *pili* nut inside.

The Lees and the other Sorsoganons around the table tell me of the women in a nearby barangay who are quite adept at chopping open the seed pod, knowing to apply pressure just so, the better to leave the nut intact.

Then I'm introduced to raw *pili* nuts, which have a milder and "cleaner" taste than the more familiar roasted *pili*, usually cooked and coated in syrup. "Did you know," Mayor Sally said, "that most of the *pili* harvest in Bicol comes from Sorsogon?" "Mommy Jean" Llorin, a civil society leader from Naga, acknowledges the quality of *pili* from Sorsogon, which processors from Legazpi and Naga then "import" before packaging and marketing.

The governor, a most eager storyteller, waxes indignant that while the coconut tree has been called "the tree of life" for its many uses, very little recognition has been paid to the *pili* tree. "It has more uses than the coconut," he declares. "We harvest its fruits which poor people often use as their only viand during meals, and then, when we're full, we crack open the seed pod and process the nut. The tree sap is also said to have medicinal qualities, while oil extracted from the *pili* is said to be even more beneficial than olive oil."

* * *

OSTENSIBLY, the real reason for this visit to Sorsogon, 20 years after my first, brief stopover in the course of a land trip from Manila to Tacloban, was to cut the ribbon during the blessing of Balay Bukas-Palad, a one-stop center and shelter for women and children survivors of violence.

Almost a year ago, Mayor Lee learned about the "one-stop shop" for women and children victims of abuse in the course of a study tour of Cebu and Bohol on community-based approaches to reproductive health. The "one-stop shop" approach makes it possible for survivors to get medical, psychological, legal and police support in one place, with no need to tell their stories over and over to various agencies.

Finding the concept most attractive, she promised to set up such a structure in Sorsogon, and true to her word was able to offer the Balay Bukas-Palad for the women and children of Sorsogon less than a year after returning from that study-tour.

The "Balay" or home is a sturdy three-story building, painted in predominant shades of light green and white, with counseling and interview rooms, a kitchen, dormitory and a rooftop garden which can be used for gatherings and large affairs.

* * *

THAT afternoon, I was the main speaker at the women's conference, being held as part of the overall festivities for "Kasanggayanan 2003," Sorsogon province's annual celebration.

With barangay women from Sorsogon City and neighboring towns attending, the conference was meant to lend a "serious" note to the annual festivities which normally focus on cultural exchange, beauty and talent contests, a trade fair and entertainment numbers.

Expectedly, most of the questions during the open forum centered on domestic violence, especially the frustration felt by caregivers who spent time and considerable emotional capital in coming to the aid of women victims of violence, only to watch incredulously as these same women freely returned to their abusive husbands.

Indeed, I said, that is one of the most difficult aspects of working with women and children survivors of violence. But until we as a society are better able to provide women with real choices and alternatives, and empower them to support themselves and their children with confidence, battered women will have no choice but to return to their abusive husbands, risking a repeat, if not an escalation, of the cycle of violence, with perhaps tragic consequences. But, no matter how wrong we feel are the women's choices, caregivers must respect their decisions and their reasons for them. To disregard or belittle them would be to deprive them of even their most basic right to dignity and respect.

* * *

MAYOR Lee had said she would try to organize a get-together with my relatives from the Tabuena-Jimenez-Duran clan, which is quite sizeable. Unfortunately, our hectic schedule couldn't allow for such a gathering. No matter. Everywhere I went, from the Balay Bukas-Palad to the women's conference, from the trade fair where I did a bit of shopping to Fernando's Hotel, which is owned and managed by former Mayor Fernando Duran, brother of our beloved "Tita" Eggie Duran Apostol, people were coming up to me and introducing themselves as my relatives or friends of the family. Tita Cecilia, Tito Fernando's wife, even managed to recruit me to help with the publicity for "Balik Sorsogon," a program aimed at luring Sorsoganons who had left for far shores to come home for a visit and perhaps invest in Sorsogon's future.

I felt not unlike a *"balik-Sorsoganon"* myself, and am looking forward to more lessons on how to acquaint myself with my inner Bicolana.

'Inis' management

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IN ANTICIPATION of All Souls weekend, I was going to write about the valiant Italian woman who spent 30 years of her life among the sick and dying in Somalia and who was murdered recently. But I thought that could wait.

I'd like to stand aside and give way to a letter writer who is so frustrated about this country's government officials and is about to go mad. I don't know her personally and have never met her. I believe she is not the only one who feels the way she does, but, to her credit, she at least tried to find a way to release the toxin. Some letters I receive are more toxic than others but this one made me laugh. Here goes:

"Dear Ms. Ceres,

"Sorry *wala po akong mapagbuntunan ng inis. Pasensiya na* if I am using your mail as *'inis'* management venue.

"I am an ordinary, in fact, heartsick, citizen of our benighted country. Now, they want to impeach Justice Davide! Can I make a request, through you? We have a democracy, right, *pikon na pikon na ako sa mga* government leaders, can your newspaper do a financial or living lifestyle (check) of all our government officials, from president, senator, congressman, governor, mayor, barangay captain... *LAHAT!! Sawang-sawa na ako sa kalokohan sa gobierno. Tahimik lang ang mga tao pero pagod na rin sa kurakot ni* mayor *at* government officials. I won't be surprised if Fernando Poe would win.

"*Puede ho ba* through your newspaper, can you do a check on all your government officials, *lalo na* senators and congressmen, how they live within their government officials' salaries?

"How I wish that it would be part of the requirements that if ever elected, all officials would report to Batasang Pambansa commuting, or using our public transportation. *Hindi na iyong may wang-wang pa sila,* and that they should live in Navotas, *sa housing doon at maranasan nila kung paano mamuhay ang Pinoy, lalo na pag may baha, hindi magarbong buhay!*

"*Inis na inis na ako talaga. Kung puede lang iwanan itong bayan natin, gusto ko nang iwan.*

"*May mayor na kurakot, may barangay chairman na lasenggero, may governor na kurakot. Nakakainis.* Stressful *na ang* government officials, *kaya* I won't be surprised if we would become an Eat Bulaga country, anyway, Tito Sotto hosts the show on Saturdays, mag-birthday celebration *pa siya doon! Wala silang dangal!*

"*Sori ho, inis na inis na ako. Lalo ngayon* with the news of Davide and Erap. (Deleted) *si Erap* (again deleted, because slanderous) *ayun, bagay sa kanya mag-aral ng* law *habang nasa* detention *niya kesa laging paawa* effect *at baka matuto pa siya. Makita ko lang itong si* Jinggoy *sa* TV *inis na inis na ako.*

"*Puede ho ba ang mga* leaders *naman natin ang gawan ng* blind items *kaparis sa* 'Startalk'? *Nakakapikon na sila, wala na silang ginawa sa bayan, nanggulo pa.*

"Goodness, *pati pa si* Justice Davide! *Nakakasawa na! Nakakapagod na sila! Tapos may malalang karamdaman si Erap! Iyong laking katawang iyon may malalang karamdaman!* Slip disc! Goodness, *ipaopera lang siya kung gusto niya, hindi malala iyon!* Believe me, my cardiologist has slip disc yet he is able to attend to his many patients and heal them. *Tapos si Erap. Grabe sa* PR *at* using media to his advantage. If liver cirrhosis *pa,* I won't be surprised.

"Thank you for listening. I hope there is a government leaders' stress management, for ordinary citizens like me.

"Julie"

Well, Julie, although you didn't answer when I asked if I could use your letter, I used it anyway but without your family name and e-mail address.

That *wang-wang* thing really made me explode. For the clueless who don't know street-corner language, *wang-wang* refers to the wailing siren that should only be used for ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles. Yes, Julie, *may wang-wang pa sila, 'no?*

I don't know if your *inis* would subside if I told you that recently, a bunch of environmentalists and media people, alumni and friends of Los Enemigos (friends of The Enemies, yes), did some brainstorming, for the fun of it and for catharsis, to find Filipino expressions that could apply to the people who are giving citizens like you a stressful life. Shortly after that session, I received your letter. Call that synchronicity.

Here are some of the words and phrases they came up with:

ungas, talamak, palpak, peyk, bad news, *masamang balita, walang modo, que miedo, nawawala, kurap, busabos, nakakahiya, walang hiya, sin verguenza, mabaho, mabantot, malansa, may tama, malala, tado, halang ang bituka, maitim ang kaluluwa, hilo,* bad breath, *wabayag, no-egs, bano, ogag, amoy utot, amoy poso negro, ulol, masamang damo,* for vermiculture, for composting, *pasaning krus, palamunin, tololaway, may sayad,* cheap, *ang kapal, kapalmuks, hiyain, tigbakin, ipalamon sa pating....*

Call that anger management.

During this season of souls, it behooves us and those guys we called names to pause and think. Here are some words from Henri Nouwen:

"People are dying every day, every hour, every minute. They die suddenly or slowly. They die on the streets of big cities or in comfortable homes. They die in isolation or surrounded by friends and family. They die in great pain or as if falling asleep... But all of them die alone, facing the unknown.

"We all must die. And we all will die alone. No one can make that final journey with us. We have to let go of what is most our own and trust that we did not live in vain. Somehow, dying is the greatest of all human moments because it is the moment in which we are asked to give everything. The way we die has not only much to do with the way we have lived, but also with the way that those who come after us will live."

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

A sister's confession

YOUNG BLOOD

Princess

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN she told me she was pregnant, I was indignant. I raged and cursed the boy she had fallen in love with. "Since when?" I demanded, screaming my lungs out over the receiver.

She begged me not to scold her. She asked that I not tell our parents. There was a baby of three months growing inside her womb.

"My baby." I shuddered when she said that. Barely 20, rash and headstrong as she was, she was a girl I could never imagine handling responsibility. Four years my junior and raised in a family that traditionally prized education, honor and virtue, my sister was without doubt the black sheep. She was pampered with the kind of attention that comes with being the youngest. And she was an ingrate, I thought.

I couldn't tell her how much I was afraid for her. Daddy would kill her. And if not Daddy, then Kuya. Sensing the futility of keeping the secret, I urged her to tell Mommy and Daddy.

I couldn't sleep that night. I couldn't go to school over the next two days without noticing the indifference of the world. I couldn't think of facing my parents when I went home that weekend, knowing my sister's disgrace.

When I reached home, my parents wept like two inconsolable children because mother's baby was having a baby. My older siblings shared their grief. I felt helpless. For the first time, we were caught in a dilemma my family was not prepared to deal with. Should we keep the young mother in a shelter for the unwed? Should we give up the baby for adoption, or support the child ourselves? Should we allow my sister to get married whether her boyfriend was unworthy of her or not?

I knew our situation was not unique. In fact, society has become more tolerant of pre-marital sex and all its consequences. I couldn't even hope to know how many thousands of families had known the same shame we were suffering.

I condemned pre-marital sex without exception. I had no respect for unwed mothers. And yet I could not allow my sister to become the unwitting victim of my own scrupulousness. She became a challenge I dared not confront before. But I could not permit her to soil our family name by having a child out of wedlock. That was the overriding reason I pushed for the child's adoption and went along with the decision to send my sister to a shelter.

I was wrong to believe that took care of the problem. I misjudged my sister's resourcefulness. A few days after we took her to her new home, she ran away with her lover. She is incorrigible, I thought.

But to her it was a matter of survival. No one had asked her what she wanted. I was afraid to ask her. I could not be the confidant she needed at that time. Not when I was myself mad and flustered and didn't know any better.

When the Christmas season came, our family found it difficult to celebrate. We had no reason to be joyful.

My sister was due to deliver her baby. Earlier, she had expressed her desire to come home and cut off her relations with her lover and his family. How convenient to call on our parents at the time when she was ready to give birth.

My family and I expected her to surrender the baby to the nuns who would arrange for its adoption. And as soon as she was well enough, my sister signed the papers.

There was no mention of the baby after that, the baby who was my nephew but whom I was not ready to acknowledge. My sister was sent out of the country to help her get over the experience a little more quickly.

Then one afternoon, she came back. Her timing was perfect: my parents and siblings were at work, and I was alone by the piano.

I suspected something fishy when I noticed a car parked on our driveway. My sister went straight into her room and remained there for a while. I rang up my parents and advised them of the new development.

The next thing I knew I was on a murderous rampage. No one could stop me from hitting and verbally abusing my sister. I unleashed all my frustration and my anger. I accused her of conspiring her lover and his family to get back the baby.

My sister left, pushed into leaving our house by me.

My family was ready to consider her dead. Or at least, I was. After considerable time without hearing a word from her, we resigned ourselves to the reality that sister would never return.

We went through many months getting accustomed to her absence. I did not have a problem with that. But I could never guess what thoughts were running through my father's head. One minute he would look sullen, and in the next he would look fine. Please don't tell me he is worried about her, I prayed. Knowing how much the mere mention of my sister's name irked me, he never talked about her. But it turned out that he was keeping in touch with her, clandestinely.

I swore with all my heart I would never see the baby. And I swore I would never forgive my sister for the shame she had brought upon our family.

Three years later my sister is back in college, studying her way to the top of her class and earning the highest honors. My nephew is the sweetest thing I have ever known.

I melted instantly when my mother showed him to me. He was all smiles when he reached out his stubby little arms to me for his first embrace. I swallowed my anger and my arrogance together with the promises I made to myself.

My sister is home for good. She is still a single mother, a state I no longer denounce completely but have instead developed some sympathy for. I can understand now why society should not condemn women who have fallen like her. For the sake of their children, we ought to help them.

I cannot help but wonder what my sister will tell my nephew when he grows up and asks about his father. I wonder how he would feel when my sister reveals to him the tribulations she went through from the moment of his conception to the time he came home to our family.

Sometimes I wonder what kind of man he will turn out to be. Will he be a rascal or a great achiever? Will he be a problem or a soruce of pride to us?

Whatever he may be, naughty or nice as he is today, I am certainly glad he became part of our family.

Princess, 27, finished her M.D. at the University of the Philippines Manila.

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New voters have tough time registering in Quezon City

THIS is to bring to the attention of higher Commission on Elections officials the great difficulties voters from the second district of Quezon City have to go through just to register.

According to the two personnel manning the desks (they refused to give their names and they were wearing IDs in such a way as to show the backside), the security guard distributes registration numbers up to 1,000 only starting at 8 a.m. daily. Registrants have to line up as early as 3 a.m. to be sure that they get their registration numbers. Those who are unable to get a number will just have to take a chance that the processing of the first 1,000 new registrants will be completed before the closing time which is at 8 p.m. As a result, many would-be voters have to keep coming back in order to register.

It is very plain to see that the system is not working. If more hundreds of registrants have to be turned away every day, then the Comelec must address the problem immediately. The present system hardly encourages new voters to register.

On Sunday, Oct. 26, I accompanied my two children to register only to see a very long queue of people getting registration numbers. We decided to go back in the afternoon, hoping there would be fewer people waiting in line. When we got there, the line was still as long as it was in the morning.

My relatives who live in the fourth district took all of five minutes to complete their registration and validation. At 7 p.m. the desks for the other districts had closed while that for the first district was calling registrant number 910.

Registrant number 1,000 was called at around 7:45 p.m., and the election personnel were ready to call it a day. We requested that those who had patiently waited be accommodated, but our request was turned down. We asked if we could talk to a supervisor so he would know the problem, but again our request was denied.

With the deadline for registration fast approaching, why doesn't the Comelec do something to solve this problem? Comelec personnel cannot just go on giving the excuse that it's not their fault if they can only process 1,000 registrants a day. Neither is it polite for them to ask if those waiting to register would give them overtime pay.

These people ought to be reminded that their salaries are already being paid by taxpayers.

—FLOR SARMIENTO
Napocor Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

This Filipino says 'Enough!'

I AM a Filipino. And I say "Enough!"

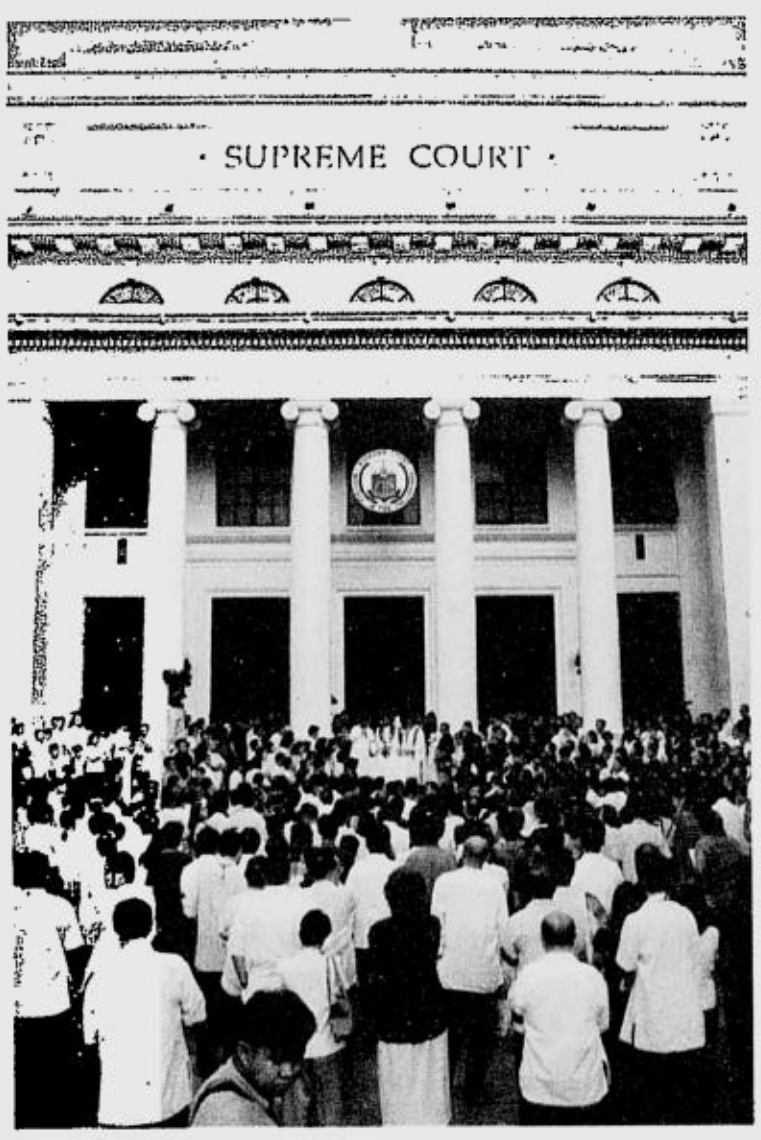
And I call on every one else who refuses to give up the last fabric of decency and dignity in this country to declare the same. "Enough!"

I am incensed and exasperated over all these political dramas that do the worst disservice to our interest as a people. While the rest of us continue to hope and work very hard for a better life for our families and ourselves, our politicians appear to work even harder at pulling us deeper into the trough.

This government is willing to sacrifice even the last bastion of decency among our institutions in the name of politics. These politicians will spare not even one of the few remaining good men that have given us a glimmer of hope that the Filipino is capable of decency and integrity in public service. And once again, we find ourselves divided, on the brink of anarchy, and unable to save not just the floundering peso but also our dying hopes.

And there is nothing that the leadership of this government will do as she herself is mired in this same politicking. She, after all, was the one who chose to betray her word for the sake of political ambition.

I am a Filipino and I say "Enough!" And I am sure that I am joined by millions more of Filipinos in and outside the country in this declaration.



In the name of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and all the good that he represents for us, we will not put up with this. And if this government will not heed us and continue to make a parody of our sense of collective pride, it better find another nation to fool. Because we have had enough!

—LUCY JASMIN,
lucy_jasmin@aprilasia.com

Excuses, excuses

IT was an epidemic waiting to happen.

I read with disgust the alibi of Maynilad Water Services Inc. that the gastroenteritis/cholera outbreak in Tondo was probably caused by illegal water pipe connections and the use of booster pumps.

Maynilad is as much to blame for this outbreak: For a year now, Maynilad has been cutting off the water supply in Tondo every night. According to Maynilad's hotline staff, they had to divert the water supply to other areas like Cavite each night. Last July, one lady even told me that we Tondo residents were even lucky to get water at all. Huh? When I complained that Tondo was probably being singled out, she gave me the address and fax of Maynilad assistant vice president Virgilio Reambillo and suggested that I write him a letter. I did, and as expected did not get the courtesy of a reply.

It is a fact that bacteria easily enter the water line (through illegal connections and leaky pipes) when the water pressure is low, or as in the case of poor Tondo, nonexistent at night. There they await the next morning's water pressure and flow into the faucets of susceptible Tondo residents.

Last night (Oct. 28), Maynilad did not cut off our water supply, apparently to flush out the bacteria in the water pipes. For the first time in one year, there was water in Tondo after 9 p.m.

This morning Maynilad spokesperson Jess Matubis blamed Tondo residents not only for the illegal water line connections and use of booster pumps but also for buying water from other sources. He said that most of the gastroenteritis cases (laboratory tests confirmed several as cholera cases) were not Maynilad clients.

Maynilad will never run out of excuses, and for certain, it will never admit it is partly to blame.

—STELLA O. GONZALES,
1341 Sta. Maria St.,
Tondo, Manila

Heart patient needs operation

MY daughter has been diagnosed to have a "congenital heart disease," as an echocardiography showed last June 2002. The doctor said an operation was necessary and I have no money to pay for it. I am only an ordinary employee of the government here in Butuan City, a widow with two young children.

I have no one to turn to except you. I have read of the help that has come through the INQUIRER's publicity for Kitkat Paano who also had a congenital heart disease.

My hope is that people who helped Kitkat would once again be God's conduit for help in the heart operation of my child, Ma. Brookeshield L. Encabo. She is 15 years old, and is a third year high school student.

I would like to ask for help from readers with generous hearts. The shame of asking and begging, I will not mind, for as long as my daughter lives, as this is the only way left.

—CELERINA L. ENCABO,
Barangay Affairs Office,
City Hall, Doongan, Butuan City

'As soon as funds are available'

LAST Oct. 13 was the seventh death anniversary of my late mother, Gaudencia Quejas Berbano, a Philippine Veterans Affairs Office pensioner with Official No. TS MCO 93644093, Pension No. 11, Benefit TTSA.

My mother left the Philippines in 1975 and resided with a brother and sister in the United States. Through the special power of attorney, I took charge of all her PVAO concerns.

My mother would from time to time call/write me about matters I had to refer to the PVAO which were the following:

1. Undelivered checks covering the period January-December 1991.

2. Stale checks for April and May 1997.

I started working on these claims in 1992 (this refers to the undelivered 1991 checks) with some PVAO officials like the chief of financial management division, Eduvigis Fernando. Unfortunately, in spite of accomplishing all the requirements, not to mention the time and money spent coupled with the effort of the Auditor's Office where I sought assistance (I was then administrative officer of the Commission on Audit, Regional Office 2, Tuguegarao City), I never received the said claims even after my mother's death.

After my mother's cremation and burial in Aparri, Cagayan, I continued working on the said claims and included funeral assistance and a request for my mother's old age pension. With this, I sought the assistance of the then head of the Presidential Action Office, Jonathan Baligod, who likewise endorsed my letter to Helen Fuellas, accounting chief, Claims Division. Then I wrote Deputy Administrator Romeo R. Suarez, who in turn sent me application forms for claims with further instruction that I submit the accomplished forms with supporting documents to Socorro Requedan, chief, Pension and Gratuity Division. These accomplished forms together with supporting documents were all forwarded to her office.

I waited for the claim as told, but it never came. I could not make the trip to the PVAO as there was work to do in the office. My sister's ailment coupled with my nephew's financial needs was so much of a pressure on me. Hence, I approached our congressman, Rodolfo Aguinaldo (now deceased) to assist me, who in turn called up the Administrator's Office.

Likewise, I also wrote Administrator Victor Villacosta but it was answered by Mark L. Suluen, officer in charge, who informed me that my request for death pension was approved under List No. 99-70321 and payment will commence as soon as funds are available. As he instructed further, I followed it up with the office of Heriberto L. Ruanto, chief, Financial and Management Division.

However, after waiting for several months and there was nothing we received, I visited the PVAO particularly the accounting office, and through Grace Ambos I was told we shall receive payment as soon as funds are available.

—LORNA B. SALVATIERRA,
6 V. Gomez St.,
Carig, Tuguegerao City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Constitutional crisis coming?

IT'S not certain yet whether or not the second impeachment charges will really be endorsed by the House to the Senate. But this early, the issue seems to be dividing the nation already. I think that this issue is heating up very quickly, because of the wrong impression that it is the institution of the Supreme Court which is under attack, and that is perhaps why some forces are already mobilizing to defend the high court, which they say is the "last bulwark of democracy and freedom." For his part, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said that this impeachment charge is a "danger to democracy."

I think that it would be fair to assume at this point in time that Davide has really nothing to fear because the majority of the senators, who will act as the jury in the impeachment trial should it push through, are with the administration and would most likely decide in his favor.

I also think that a constitutional crisis need not happen, because the Senate need not pressure Davide to appear in person, as he could be tried in absentia, according to the Senate rules. On the other hand, a constitutional crisis might ensue if and when the House decides to refer to the Supreme Court the question of whether it is constitutional to bring forward another impeachment charge against Davide. The heart of the controversy is whether or not an earlier impeachment process could be deemed as "initiated," even if it was not "consummated," or did not prosper.

Just to ease the tension on everybody, I think that it is important to point out that it is the person of Davide which is accused in this case, and not the institution of the Supreme Court. I also do not think that the high court is under attack, as this is just a democratic exercise that is provided for in the Constitution.

I am really surprised at the way Davide reacted to this issue, when he said that he will fight it "till death" to counter this charge. I think that he should not have overreacted, as this is not a war or a battle that he has to fight. All he has to do is to defend himself by explaining that contrary to the accusations against him, he did not misuse the Judicial Development Fund (JDF) which was placed under his trust. As a matter of fact, I think that this second impeachment charge would have not been filed, had he not gotten the ire of the congressmen for invoking fiscal autonomy, and for lobbying against investigations to be opened.

Is this impeachment charge really a danger to democracy, as Davide says? I say that it is not, since for all intents and purposes, the prosecution and the jury are the Filipino people, who are acting through their elected representatives in Congress. Is the Supreme Court in danger of collapsing because of this impeachment charge? I say that it is not, because in the event that the jury decides not to allow the person of Davide to continue in office, the Supreme Court as an institution will of course continue in existence, albeit with a new Chief Justice. That's democracy in action.

—IKE SEÑERES,
ike@kaiking.net

'Makuwenta'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week I wrote about French smokers groaning over the new prices of cigarettes: 5.50 euros a pack, which I converted to P440 each, using a rate of P80 to a euro. As Murphy's Law goes, almost as soon as the INQUIRER went to press, I happened to spot the latest currency exchange rates in a newspaper and realized I was thinking of Britain, where it used to be P80 to a British pound. The correct exchange rate then is about P65 to a euro, which still means a deadly P357.50 per pack.

Oh well, I thought, it was just as well. During my last visit to Europe I kept multiplying by 80, instead of 65, which meant I kept my spending even more tightly reined.

Mainly for work, Filipinos travel a lot, which means we do end up being *"makuwenta,"* a word derived from the Spanish *cuenta*, meaning to count. Usually, *makuwenta* has derogatory connotations: to be called *makuwenta* means you're always counting pesos and centavos, dollars and cents, figuring out who owes whom and when you can collect. In an extended sense, it's used to refer even to social relationships: someone who is *makuwenta* is always calculating what he can get back whenever he or she helps out a friend.

I wanted to use *makuwenta* in a more literal, but less negative, sense. When I was in grade school, our arithmetic teachers used to give us all kinds of conversion exercises to sharpen our multiplication and division skills. To name a few of the exercises, we had to go from gallons to liters, Fahrenheit to Centigrade, acres to hectares.

There was more to these exercises to numeracy. Our teachers knew that we live in a world where different cultures have different ways of measuring weights, volumes, lengths, even temperature.

Who was to know then that so many Filipinos would end up globe-trotting, not as tourists but to make a living and that to survive, we had to learn to be walking calculators, quick at converting from one system to another? For example, application forms in Europe will ask for heights and weights in the metric system, which baffles many of us because we still think in feet and inches and in pounds. Once I put my height in a form as 1 meter 45 cm, which turned out to only 4 feet 9 inches—a few inches, oops, I meant centimeters, short of reality.

I grew up with the Fahrenheit system, and still have difficulty when the pilot announces we're about to land in a European city and that it's a wonderful spring day with a temperature of 15 degrees Centigrade. All I know is that 15 degrees, for this Fahrenheit-oriented person, doesn't sound like a wonderful day. (For Filipinos my age, and Americans, here's a quick conversion: 15 degrees Centigrade is 59 degrees Fahrenheit, still a bit too cold for tropical creatures like us, but psychologically more tolerable.)

Let's get back to the matter of currencies. I've learned that it isn't always too healthy to keep converting, especially when you're in the United States or Europe because you end up not eating anything. If you're in Britain for example, the rate now is 1 pound to, hold your breath, P93.

But even without being *makuwenta*, you start to get a gut feel of what the costs are. You learn to pack your lunch when you take a train trip because buying a sandwich and a pack of fruit juice on the train will set you back by 6 euros, converted into P390. You walk a hundred blocks or so to avoid paying the 1 pound on the bus (goodness, I think it's sinful paying P93 for a short bus ride). You learn to take airport trains into the city, feeling very good because it costs only $6 or P330, the taxi fare of $50 being almost unthinkable at P2,750, and promising yourself you can buy three or four more books with the savings.

As a Filipino who's been *makuwenta* through several years (okay, okay, decades) of travel, these currency conversions can sometimes be depressing, because you realize how the peso's value has shrunk in relation to other currencies. There was a time, and this will tell you how old I really am, when we joked about "Made in Japan" products being inferior, and how P1 was equivalent to 100 yen, which we looked at almost as Mickey Mouse money. Today, the Japanese yen is worshipped next to the US dollar, with 100 yen now equivalent to P50.

Then, too, there was a time when you went to Taiwan with an exchange rate of P1 to 10 New Taiwan dollars (NT$). We went to Taiwan packing our own toilet paper because their's was, well, too abrasive, and we went around merrily dividing prices by 10, snapping up pirated books and records. If I remember right, a record cost the equivalent of P10. Hardcover textbooks went for P30 to P100 each, while their originals cost up to 10 times more.

Today, Filipinos going to Taiwan pack their instant coffee and instant noodles to take as lunch in their hotel rooms because Taiwan's prices are as high as those in Tokyo. There aren't pirated books anymore; several generations of Taiwanese students gained from those cheap books, learning medicine and engineering and now producing high quality, high-tech goods to sell to those *mayabang* Filipinos who used to smirk at their toilet paper.

Meanwhile, Filipinos queue up to apply for jobs in Taiwan, the NT$ is now as coveted as the greenback and the Japanese yen. While we used to divide New Taiwan dollars by 10 to get pesos, we now have to multiply NT$ by 1.7 to get pesos.

What's most depressing is that these days, you don't have to wait years to see how our peso is depreciating. In the last year, I've had to visit Thailand almost every other month to coordinate a Southeast Asian project for the University of the Philippines. Each time I visit, the Thai baht, whose collapse in 1997 set off the Asian financial crisis, seems to be getting stronger, even while our peso continues to slide. Two years ago it was about 1 Thai baht to P1 but over the last few months, I've had to multiply Thai prices first by 1.1, then 1.2, then 1.3, to get the peso equivalent. When I go this week, it will be 1.4.

Oh well, we can still find consolation joking about being a millionaire in Indonesia, where one US dollar is equivalent to 10,000 rupiah, or Vietnam, where it's 12,000 dong. Let's not get too smug though. The way those countries are racing ahead, I wouldn't be surprised if some day we end up multiplying, rather than dividing, when we visit.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Law firm close to GMA loses land case

By Franklin Caliguid, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BUTUAN CITY—In what appeared to be a landmark decision on a controversial agrarian reform case, Malacañang has ruled in favor of the 11 Surigao farmers embroiled in a 26-year-old land dispute with a company being backed by a law firm very close to the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The committee on agrarian reform of the Office of the President, which is headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, recently ordered the revocation of a 1977 order of the Department of Agrarian Reform, which granted the Fanny Cortes Garcia and Innocencio Development Corp. authority to convert its 29-hectare land in Barangay Luna in Surigao City and exempt it from the coverage of land reform.

The conversion of the agricultural land into a housing development area was granted by then Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado Estrella despite the presence of landless tenants on the property.

Conflict

The conflict started when the company failed to satisfy the conditions set by the agrarian reform department, including the granting of residential lots to the farmers who would lose their chance to stake claims on the property as agrarian reform beneficiaries.

This prompted the farmers to reoccupy the land.

Relieved

The farmers said they were relieved with Malacañang's order and that they found out that there was nothing to fear about the Villaraza and Angcangco law firm, which is considered very influential being very close to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Being a "Palace power bloc," the law firm was known for its closeness to the President and has come under attack for allegedly causing delays in the handing over of decisions involving its clients.

Accused

The law firm had been accused by a German company of extortion in exchange for favorable decisions involving the German firm's expenses in building the now controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3.

Corazon Valenzuela, a representative of the farmers, said the Villaraza and Angcangco law firm had earlier argued that the conversion of the agricultural lands for a housing project was legal and within the bounds of the law.

However, Romulo said his committee had found otherwise.

"The order of conversion covering subject landholdings is hereby revoked and set aside," Romulo said in his order.

Slain Abra mayor's wife losing faith in teams probing husband's murder

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The wife of slain Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra, is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the anti-crime task forces she formed to address a series of political assassinations in Northern Luzon.

None of these task forces has so far produced results, said Soledad Benwaren, an employee of the National Police Commission.

She asked Malacañang to make the police accountable for the task forces' failures, after she discovered that some of the government witnesses to the murder of her husband in Calauan, Laguna, in 2002 had reportedly recanted.

Mayor Benwaren was gunned down as he was attending a wedding ceremony in a church in Calauan on Oct. 29 last year.

Mrs. Benwaren said despite Napolcom's oversight powers over the Philippine National Police, the agency had not been advised about the activities of these task forces.

"Most of the task forces submit routine accomplishment reports to their units, which are mostly sketchy updates of these cases. I only obtain additional information if I formally request for them, but I never get anything substantial," she told the INQUIRER.

Her plea has been supported by an open letter and an electronic petition posted at www.abreni-an.com, which were initiated by Abra natives in the country and abroad.

This sentiment was also aired in an Oct. 3 press conference by Evelyn Chan, wife of slain Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr.

Chan's murder investigation had slowed down following the transfer of the police investigator tasked with leading the task force, said lawyer Estelita Cordero, chair of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa).

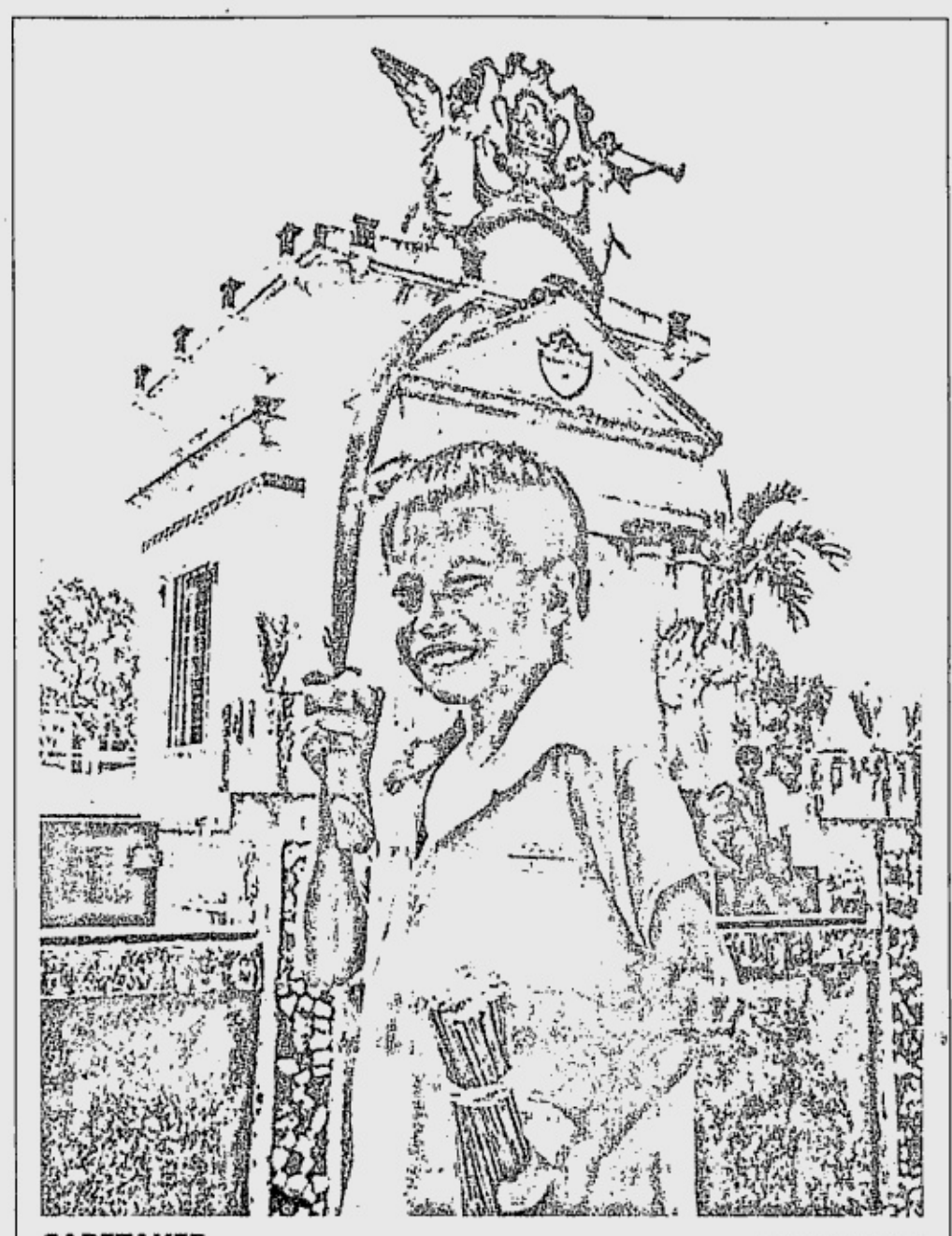
Cordero said the Chan family wanted to organize into a lobby group with other families of murdered victims whose cases were promised swift action by Malacañang.

She said many of the failed task forces were concentrating on political murders that implicate political figures who are close to the government or the ruling political parties.

Chan and his driver, Alex Regacho, were ambushed in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, on Oct. 4, 2001.

Chan's widow said her husband was investigating a list of projects subsidized by money collected from the tobacco excise tax.

In an open letter to Ms Macapagal, the Abrenians for Peace and Justice pointed out that "high profile collaborated motives" that led to certain suspects in Mayor Benwaren's murder had already been established in the probe, but the Task Force Benwaren had yet to tackle these leads.



CARETAKER JESS YUSON/PDI PHOTO
A boy displays the tools of his trade, cleaning tombs and graves, for the coming influx of people to cemeteries on All Saints Day in a public graveyard in Gapan, Nueva Ecija.

ROUNDUP

Dad's child abuse

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Two youngsters accused their father of alleged sexual abuse, police in Polillo, Quezon said. Police identified the suspect as Joselito Cuevas, 45, farmer and resident of Barangay Binibitinan, Polillo. Police said the 13-year-old victim complained that the suspect had been repeatedly abusing her since she was eight years old. During the investigation, the married daughter of the suspect also disclosed that her father had also raped her. The suspect is now in jail pending the filing of criminal charges. The younger victim is under the custody of the social welfare officer. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bingo center padlocked

LUCENA CITY—Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. led police in closing down the operation of JES Bingo at the Sy Bang Building located in the city's downtown area Saturday. A police report said the gaming center has no permit from the mayor's office after it was consistently denied one due to its proximity to the St. Ferdinand Cathedral and two private Catholic schools. Bingo operator Edward Sy Bang, known here as Talaga's political critic, cried harassment but Talaga denied the allegation. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

8 nabbed for drugs

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Police last week arrested eight persons in possession of more than 100 grams and several sachets of shabu in separate occasions. Arrested were Erlinda Polo, 39, and Maria Luz Delizo-Sagun, 37, both of Biñan, Laguna, last week; Laila Olano, 23, of Calamba City; Lilia Garola, 59; Orlando Garola, 38; Antonio Lim, 42; Remeo Rojano, 45, all of Biñan and Alfredo Avinchuela, 38, of Barangay Parian. Laguna provincial police director Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera said all the confiscated pieces of evidence have been brought to the PNP Calabarzon laboratory office for testing. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Blast kills boy

DAGUPAN CITY—A three-year-old boy died while four members of his family suffered from severe burns when a pile of firecrackers that his father was preparing in their house exploded on Oct. 20. Police said the father, Alexander Ibasan, was cutting a blasting cord for the firecrackers when it sparked and burned the other firecrackers. Ibasan's wife Mely immediately ran to where her three children were sleeping and tried to save them from the fire. Alexander Jr., 3, died from third degree burns while Ibasan, Mely and their two other children, Andrea, 4, and Juniel, 1, were taken to a hospital for severe burns. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Rebs kill soldier

CABANATUAN CITY—Three armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army abducted and killed an Army sergeant in Cuyapo town on Saturday. Reports said Sgt. Eulogio Campos, 36, was abducted in his farm in Barangay Salagusog in Cuyapo on Saturday noon. His body was found in a forested area in the village on Sunday. Campos, who was a member of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade based in Gabaldon town, died of bullet wounds in the body. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

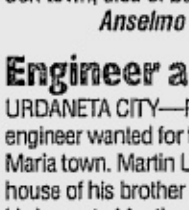
Engineer arrested

URDANETA CITY—Police on Wednesday arrested an engineer wanted for the murder of two people in Sta. Maria town. Martin Lloren, 41, was arrested in the house of his brother in Barangay Dilan Paurido here. He is wanted for the 2002 murder of Rodolfo Cacaban and Jonathan Navaja. Police seized three firearms and bullets from the house of Lloren's brother. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Drug man nabbed

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A leader of an illegal drug syndicate operating in the Ilocos region and three of his men were arrested by the police in a buy-bust operation in Barangay San Vicente here on Monday. Chief Supt. Claudio Cabreros, Ilocos police director, identified the suspects as Roberto Fernandez, 37, said to be the leader of the Alviento Group and the region's seventh most wanted illegal drug suspect; Betty Campos Fernandez, 41; Mohalidin Minor Manibpel; and Recto Huerto, 50. Confiscated from them were four plastic sachets containing 60 grams of shabu worth P120,000, a .22 cal. pistol and a Toyota Corolla taxi which, the police said, was being used for their illegal drug operations. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 535 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Thousands flee Negros floods

BACOLOD CITY—Heavy rains brought on by tropical depression "Ursula" triggered flooding in the southern end of Negros Occidental, forcing 33,949 residents to evacuate, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) reported.

A man identified as Bonifacio Derla, 25, was reported to have drowned in Ilog town, 103.7 km south of here, according to reports reaching the PSWDO.

In Cauayan town, 101 families (626 persons) evacuated and one house was destroyed; in Sipalay City 1,550 (11,251 persons) evacuated; in Ilog town 3,489 families (20,934 persons) evacuated and three houses were destroyed; and in Kabankalan City, 232 families (1,133 persons) evacuated.

Provincial agriculturist Igmedio Tabianan said at least P614,394 worth of crops were destroyed. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Cops arrest 6 hijacking syndicate members

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Six members of a hijacking syndicate operating in three Central Luzon provinces and with a wide retail network in the Chinese-Filipino community were arrested in Meycauayan town by barangay councilmen and policemen.

But the capture of the suspects began with the courage of driver Teodoro Apurado, 38.

Apurado, steering a 10-wheel truck loaded with P900,000 worth of sugar, drove past the suspects who fired and ordered him to stop at Barangay Iba in Meycauayan.

In a press conference in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, Apurado related how he gathered guts to ignore the shots. He said he was a victim of a previous highway robbery and would not want to be a victim again.

He said he continued driving until policemen, alerted by Iba councilmen, caught up with the suspects.

The chase for the eight suspects who were on board two vehicles began with the councilmen in Barangay Perez. They spotted the two vehicles roaming around Muralla Industrial Park in the same village.

"This is a barangay-initiated operation," Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, told reporters as he cited the efforts led by Barangay captain Romulo Soriano.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said a brief gunfight took place, leading to the escape of two other suspects.

Those caught were identified as Paul Cu, Ernesto Corte, Jorge Noble, Joel Yabut, Jason Fuentes and the security guard Paul Cantomayor.

Supt. Edgardo de Leon, Meycauayan police chief, reported seizing the two cars, two .38 cal. homemade revolvers, a .45 cal. pistol, bullets, a hand grenade, three handcuffs and bonnets. ***Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

4 soldiers wounded in clash with NPAs in Agusan town

BUTUAN CITY—Four soldiers were hurt during a clash with communist rebels in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur on Monday morning, a military report said yesterday.

The report said elements of the 29th Infantry Battalion were conducting patrol operations in Sitio Tuburan in Barangay Del Monte when they chanced upon at least 20 New People's Army rebels.

The report added that a 10-minute gunfight ensued and the soldiers succeeded in driving away the rebels.

No casualty was reported on the side of the NPA but pursuing troops recovered a backpack containing communist documents and personal belongings, according to the report.

The encounter occurred just two days after the military captured two ranking rebel leaders operating in Agusan del Sur.

Lt. Col. Narciso Alamag, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro, said the military would continue its drive against the communists while strengthening civilian relations to deny the NPA of mass base in Caraga.

The NPA remained active in the region, which is one of the country's poorest areas. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GSIS suspends loan processing of 1,000 members

CAUAYAN CITY—Officials of the Government Service Insurance System here suspended the processing of loans of about 1,000 members from 12 local governments and offices in Isabela due to the delay in the payment of insurance premiums and loan contributions.

Sergio Dalisay, GSIS-Cauayan branch manager, said the delinquent agencies are the local governments of Quezon, Roxas, Cordon, Sto. Tomas and Tumauini; the water Districts of Angadanan, Ramon, Reina Mercedes and San Manuel towns; the San Agustin National High School; the San Pablo National High School; and the National Irrigation Administration-Cauayan District office.

"Much as we would like to process the loans of the members in these offices or schools, we cannot because they have been listed as delinquent in paying their contributions," Dalisay said.

Asked if the GSIS would file charges against the officials of agencies who failed to regularly remit their offices' premiums and contributions, Dalisay said it would be up to the employees to file criminal and administrative charges.

He also said their office could not process loans in a day due to the big number of applications for emergency, policy and salary loans.

He said the branch office has been catering to 21,000 members and the volume of processed loans has forced him to implement a two-shift overtime work for employees until 11 p.m. daily.

"For regular loans, however, we are coping and have been implementing the one-day loan processing," he said.

GSIS officials, led by its president Winston Garcia, have been under fire for the delay in the release of the fund members' benefits, including their loans.

Groups of government workers went to the streets to protest what they said was the funds' mismanagement.

They accused Garcia of misusing the funds but Garcia denied the charges saying the delay in the release of benefits was due to the agency's computerization program.

But government workers, including retired employees, continued to demand the resignation or ouster of Garcia, a known protegè and ally of former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña, who has shifted to the camp of Raul Roco to support Roco's campaign for 2004.

In earlier statements, the GSIS said it has released at least P2 billion in benefits to its members. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Shrine is sanctuary for troubled souls

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

ON ALL Saints Day, not only her loved ones and relatives but also devotees of the Our Lady of Guadalupe will again remember the late Nenita Rañola Goncena, a Bicolano-Chinese businesswoman-philanthropist here.

Driven by a dream and her devotion and obsession, Goncena built the only shrine of the Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bicol.

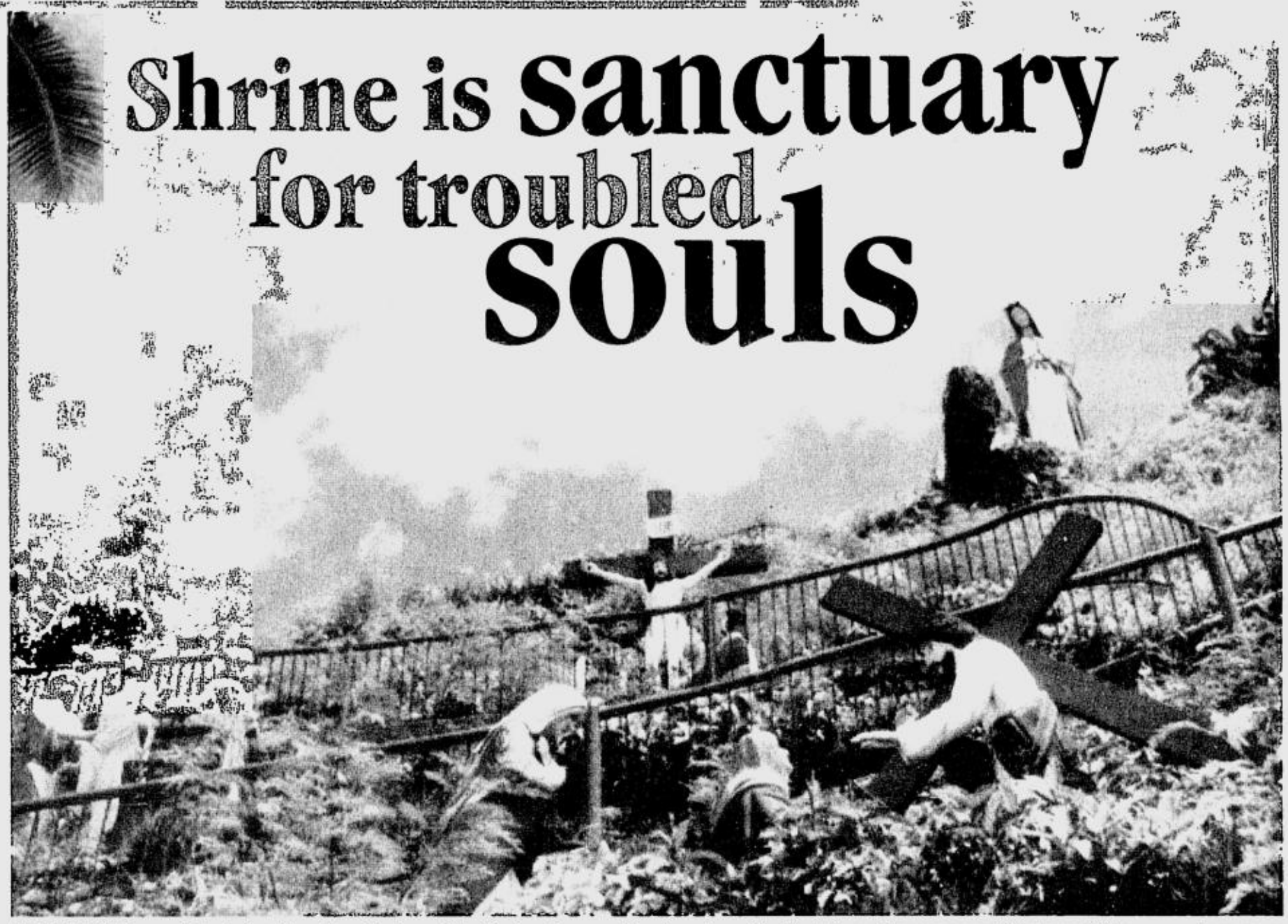
Goncena, former dean of the Graduate School of the Divine Word College of Legazpi, frequently went on pilgrimage to Mexico where the Lady of Guadalupe made a miraculous appearance several centuries ago to the poor Indian farmer Juan Diego.

Diego was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II in July 2002.

Those visits in Mexico had so engraved in Goncena's mind the image of the Our Lady of Guadalupe that she became obsessed with the idea of putting up a shrine atop a hill.

Moreover, she said the Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to her in a dream and told her to buy a lot, build a chapel and establish a crisis center for married couples.

On Dec. 12, 1995, she constructed the shrine of the Lady on top of a hill near the Pambansang Bagong Nayon in Barangay Buraguis on a lot she bought for P8 million.



THE 20-FOOT image of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and the life-sized images of the characters of the 14 stations of the cross on a hill in Legazpi City. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Death

On June 15, 2000, however, she died of stomach cancer. Her remains were laid there for at least three days before she was buried in the Chinese cemetery in this city.

Some of her friends and acquaintances told the INQUIRER that before she died, she had prepared a "pre-funeral party" at Hotel Casablanca in Legazpi, coinciding with her birthday on May 5. This surprised everyone, as she appeared to have been already preparing for her death.

She had told her friends that her body should be laid in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Buraguis.

The description of her dream is now engraved in the marker in the main entrance door of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine.

The Lady is said to have made eight apparitions since 1531.

Four of them were to Mexican farmer Juan Diego, one to his ailing uncle Juan Bernardino, and one to Fr. Juan Zumarraga, the priest who first refused to believe in the accounts of Juan Diego.

The remaining two, according to historians, were miracles and mysteries shown by the Lady.

These pertain to the miraculous healing of Bernardino's illness and the mysterious shapes and sizes of human figures located in the eyes of the image.

Dream

Those who had known Goncena believe that her dream is another miraculous apparition of the Lady of Guadalupe.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Legazpi Lucilo B. Quiambao told the INQUIRER that Goncena even consulted him regarding her dream and plan to put up the shrine.

He said she could really see through Goncena's eyes her overwhelming devotion to the Lady of Guadalupe.

After Goncena's death, her family turned over the management and direction of the shrine to the Saint Raphael Parish under the supervision of Msgr. Quiambao.

The church, marriage counseling building and the life-sized images were donated to the parish.

Goncena's family has maintained a low profile and very private life since then.

The shrine

Now, the Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Buraguis towers atop a hill overlooking the city proper. It features life-sized images of the characters of the 14 Ways of the Station of the Cross, arranged along the hill slopes.

The 20-foot image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located at the hilltop. Feast day is celebrated every 12th day of December.

The shrine is similar to the top-hill shrine in Mexico, reachable through at least 200 ladder steps.

Visitors of Goncena from Manila and the United States commented that "indeed this is like climbing on top where the apparition of the Lady Guadalupe to San Juan Diego took place."

On top of the hill, one can see Mayon Volcano and the entire Legazpi City, Albay Gulf and the Kapuntukan Hill (the Sleeping Lion Hill in Barangay Victory Village).

The shrine also has an adjacent seminar house for troubled married couples and at least five cluster rooms.

Goncena said, "Let this be a sanctuary for troubled souls and a haven for peace and reconciliation for couples in distress."

Actual image

The shrine project was supervised by architect Pancrasio Calleja.

It took at least six months before the church was opened to the public. The parish had to wait for the actual image of the Lady of Guadalupe from Mexico.

The oratory of the Lady of Guadalupe was made possible through donations of those who believed in Goncena's dream.

Through letters and phone calls, Msgr. Quiambao was able to make a request to the secretary of the Archbishop of Mexico, and persuaded him to deliver the actual image for the replica to be built in the shrine in Buraguis.

The image arrived on Dec. 12. The parish was astonished to read at the bottom the words: "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Patrona de Mexico de las Islas de Filipinas."

Msgr. Quiambao said the Philippines was specially mentioned because based on research, the Lady of Guadalupe was the patroness of the Philippines before the Immaculate Conception.

The ground breaking started on May 10, 1995 and the project was completed on Dec. 8, 1995.

Msgr. Quiambao officiated Mass during the shrine's inauguration on Dec. 12, 1995.

Mass is held there every Saturday.

Crowd drawer

The shrine has now became one of visitors' destinations in the region and one of the most visited places every Lenten season.

Many of the visitors have been touched and inspired by the life story of Goncena.

Msgr. Quiambao said that during the visit of Cardinal Jose Thomas Sanchez five years ago, he admired the shrine for being well built and for its commemoration of a sacred place.

Residents now see the emergence of a growing flock of devotees, that may eventually duplicate that of the annual pilgrimage and festival of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia in Naga City and the Nuestra Señora de Salvacion in Joroan, Tiwi, Albay.

Baltog, Handyong, Bantong come to life in Ibalong Festival

By Joyce Mejillano
Legazpi City

BICOL'S greatest mythical heroes once again come to life as Legazpi City celebrates the Ibalong Festival this October and transforms this city by the foot of Mayon Volcano into a huge theater for folk arts.

The Ibalong Festival takes its inspiration from the 18th-century epic poem that presents life during pre-Spanish times in the land called *Ibalon* or the present-day Bicol peninsula.

Former Legazpi City Mayor and now United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Commission (Unesco) Commissioner Imelda Roces started the celebration in 1992 in a bid to instill among Bicolanos a sense of identity and pride.

Mythical heroes

The Ibalong epic describes the exploits of three mythical Aryan heroes—Baltog, Handyong and Bantong—who transformed Bicol into a bustling civilization.

Baltog was known for his conquest of ferocious monsters and animals like the "tandayag" that heaves forth rings of fire, the one-eyed cyclops, a wild buffalo, a great crocodile, serpents and other wild beasts that destroyed the crops and livelihood of the villagers.

He gained respect after winning several battles he fought to protect the villagers and free them from the disastrous attacks of the monsters.

But he failed to defeat the wily serpent known as Oriol, which could transform into a beautiful and innocent-looking maiden to seduce her victims.

Handyong "tamed" Oriol after a battle. In the end, Oriol fought hand to hand with Handyong to kill the monsters that infested the villages.

After the successful battle against the monsters, Handyong planted rice and other crops in the mountains.

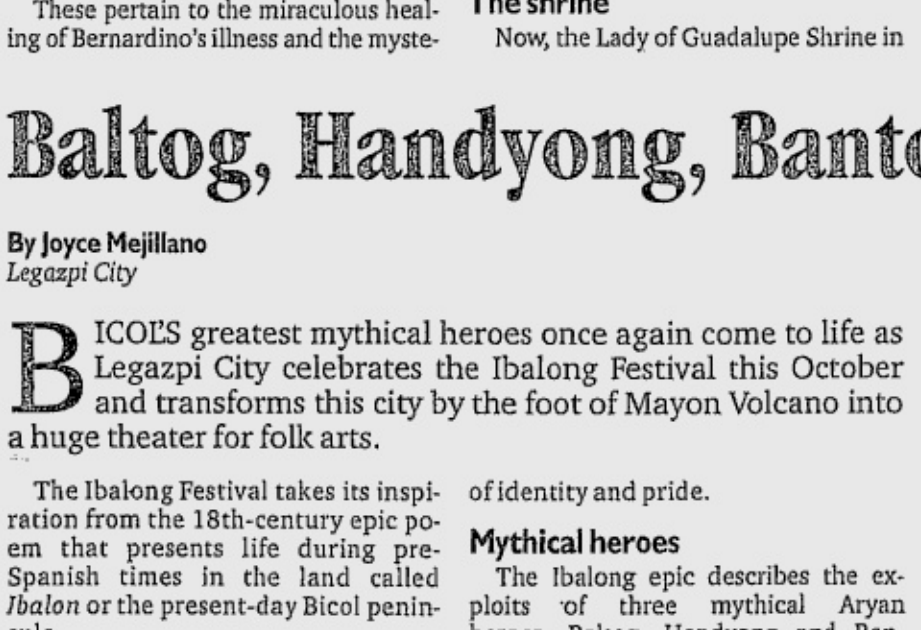
He also made the first banca that sailed through Bicol.

Bantong, the third mythical hero, was also famous for killing the half-man, half-beast monster called Rabot that had black magic.

It is said that Rabot turned all those who chased him into stones.

But Bantong realized that the monster was a great sleeper, especially during daytime.

He attacked the beast while it was sleeping and killed it, bringing joy to the villagers.

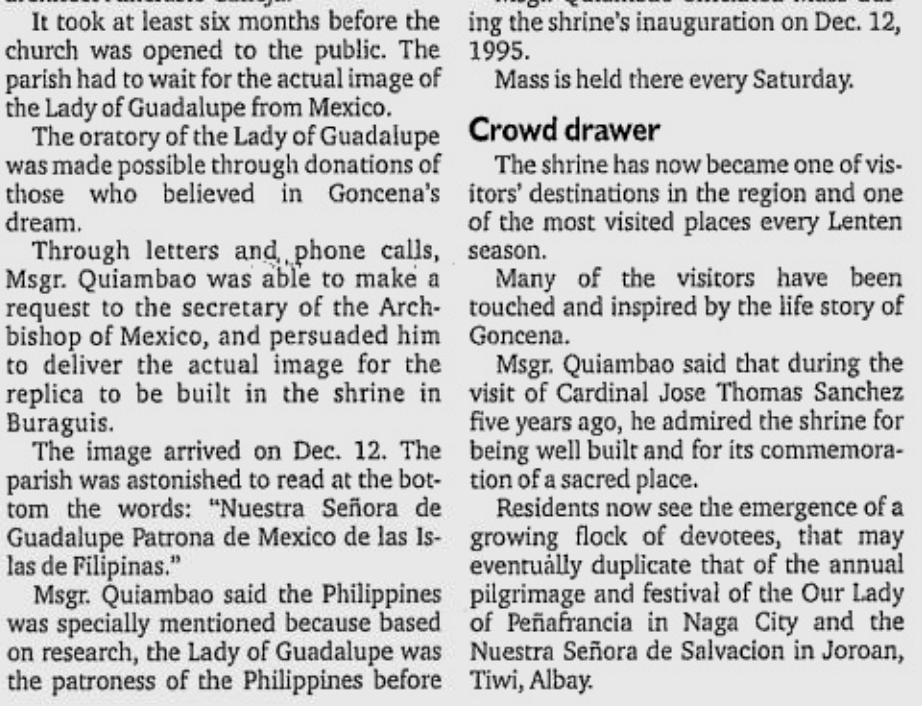


ONE of the highlights of this year's Ibalong Festival in Legazpi City is the street presentation that recreated the important chapters in the Ibalong epic. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Festival highlights

This year's festival was highlighted by a street presentation, which recreated the epic's important chapters including the arrival of the three mythical heroes, the battles between the heroes and the beasts, and the folkways of Ibalong.

Performers from different schools and organizations, clad in their indigenous and colorful abaca-inspired costumes and grotesque masks, rendered choreographed dances in the streets.



HUNDREDS of people went to Rizal Street to witness the yearly street parade of the Ibalong Festival. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Mayon Volcano, famous for its perfect cone-shaped mountain, provided a dramatic backdrop to the street theater.

Other activities in the month-long celebration included sporting events, garden shows, beauty pageant showcasing the beauty and talents of Bicolanas, a trade fair of local products, musical concerts featuring famous local and national personalities, recognition program for outstanding Bicolanos and various socio-civic and novelty activities.

Mayor Noel Rosal integrated another exciting event in this year's festival, which was the contest for the longest line of *ibos* (cooked fancy rice wrapped in coconut leaves), capped by ibos-eating contest.

More than a thousand pieces of ibos were lined up along Rizal Street, the major thoroughfare in this city, and the one who made the longest line was declared winner.

Rosal said the event was conceptualized to promote the local ibos industry and help ibos-makers market their products.

He also hoped that the activity would land in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The month-long revelry is capped by the feast of Saint Rafael, the patron saint of Legazpi City.

Rosal said the festival also aims to instill in the minds, especially of the younger generation, the legend that Bicol, especially Legazpi City, is known for.

"Ibalong is more than just another street dancing feast. It is a celebration of the resiliency and indomitable spirit of Bicolanos amid the challenges of daily life," the mayor said.

IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH:

WHY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HILARIO DAVIDE IS BEING IMPEACHED

To Hilario Davide Jr. now belongs the ignominious distinction of being the first Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court to be impeached by the House of Representatives. A few years after presiding over the very first Impeachment trial of a public official, Davide himself stands accused of betraying public trust for allegedly committing culpable violation of the Constitution.

Specifically, Davide's ouster from the highest court of the land is being sought for his supposedly questionable use of the multi-billion Judiciary Development Fund (JDF). But what is the JDF, and why is Davide being held accountable for acts that may have subverted the very essence of the fund established in1984 through

Here follows a series of questions and answers on the Davide impeachment case so the public may know:

Q: Is the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. motivated by "political vendetta"?
A: NO. The impeachment of Justice Davide is not to pursue political vendetta but is the only available and constitutional remedy to ferret out the truth about allegations that the Judicial Development Fund (JDF) has been mismanaged and misappropriated. The process of impeachment provided in the 1987 Constitution is a legitimate mechanism intended to provide check and balance among the branches of government.

Q: What is the basis of the impeachment complaint against Davide?
A: After a congressional investigation was conducted by the House Committee on Justice, it was established that Davide allegedly violated several provisions of the law when he failed to pay all the allowances of the court employees and he allegedly misused and mismanaged the JDF.

Q: Is the filing of the second impeachment complaint unconstitutional?
A: The claim that the second impeachment is unconstitutional is wrong as there was no termination of the first impeachment case, the same not having been voted upon by the House of Representatives in plenary session. The first impeachment complaint was never terminated.

Aside from denying the power of Congress to pass the rules and the obvious distinction between "initiation of proceedings" and the filing of the complaint. Davide cannot hide on a technicality. If he has nothing to hide, he should not stop the complaint!

Q: How did the impeachment complaint against Davide start?
A: This case started in Naga City sometime in June 2002 when court employees complained to Camarines Sur Congressman Felix William B. Fuentebella about the dwindling cost of living allowance that they were receiving. Under the law, these allowances are taken from the JDF.

Q: What is the JDF?
A: The JDF is a multi-billion-peso fund that is administered by the Supreme Court Chief Justice, who has the sole authority to disburse the funds. The JDF is intended principally to provide the approximately 25,000 members and personnel of the judiciary with additional allowances. According to the law, eighty (80) percent of the fund shall be used to pay allowances of court personnel while the remaining twenty (20) percent shall be used for the acquisition, maintenance and repairs of office equipment and facilities. At present, more than seventy (70) percent of legal fees paid to the Supreme Court and all other courts form part of JDF.

Q: What happened to the complaints of the court employees?
A: Acting on the court employees' complaints, Congressman Fuentebella filed House Resolution No. 460 calling on the House Committee on justice to investigate, in aid of legislation, the manner of disbursements and expenditures done by Chief Justice Davide of the JDF. The House adopted Fuentebella's resolution on July 22, 2002 and conducted several hearings thereafter.

Q: What was the reaction of Davide to the House inquiry?
A: Davide adamantly refused to cooperate with the House inquiry, invoking that it violated the fiscal autonomy of the judiciary. A memorandum was reportedly issued by the Supreme Court Administrator Presbiterio Velasco advising all court personnel not to comply with requests from the House of Representatives for copies of official records and documents involving the JDF without clearance from the court.

Davide also wrote House Speaker Jose de Venecia a letter asking that the Congressional inquiry be stopped on grounds that it was intruding into the independence and fiscal autonomy of the judiciary. This is in spite of Section 3 Article VIII of the Constitution which provides that the fiscal autonomy does not exempt the judiciary from the budgetary process of submitting and justifying its budget .

Q: What were the findings of the House Justice Committee inquiry on how the JDF were disbursed by Davide?
A: Official records obtained from the Commission on Audit (COA) during the House of Representatives investigations revealed that more than P500 million pesos required by law to be paid as additional cost of living allowance of court personnel had not been paid in 2002 alone.

Documents disclosed that the JDF was used to purchase 19 luxury cars worth P30,955,000 for members and officials of the Supreme Court, that P64,169,810 of the fund was used for the renovation of the Supreme Court session Hall. Of the amount, P5,568,630 were spent for curtains and draperies, P8,125,455 for "loose furniture" and chairs costing more than P100,000 each; P34,679,491.80 was used for the construction of new cottages and the renovation on existing ones in the Supreme Court compound in Baguio City and P99,884,746.87 was utilized for the construction of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals multi-purpose hall in Manila.

Q: Did Davide violate Section 1 of PD 1949 that mandated at least 80 percent of the JDF to be used for the allowances of the court workers?
A: Let the hard facts answer this question

Total JDF Balance	80% for COLA	Actual Disbursement	Deficiency
(Year 2000) P1,744,480,321.01	P1,395,584,256.80	P1,380,098,904.80	(P15,485,352.00)
(Year 2001) P1,799,083,074.00	P1,439,266,459.20	P1,156,777,508.03	(P282,488,950.67)
(Year 2002) P1,960,396,008.36	P1,468,316,806.68	P960,449,613.78	(P527,867,192.00)
		Total Deficiency for 2000 to 2002:	P825,841,495.57

Q: Did Davide violate the provision of PD 1949 that limited to 20 percent the amount that could be sourced from the JDF for equipment and infrastructure repair and acquisition?
A: The total JDF collected by the Supreme Court for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 amounted to less than P20,000,000, yet Davide disbursed P198,734,048.67 for construction, repair and acquisition of facilities and equipment. The hard facts will again bear out the truth.

How the JDF was allocated for equipment and facilities-related expenses:

Amount disbursed from JDF	Projects Funded	Inclusion
(2000 to 2002) P64,169,491.80	Renovation of SC session hall in Manila	curtains, chairs etc.
P34,679,491.80	Construction/repair of SC cottages and renovation of existing ones in Baguio City	
P99,884,746.87	Court of SC-CA multi-purpose hall in SC compound in Manila	

JDF disbursements for motor vehicles

Year of Purchase	Amount
2000	P8,000,000
2001	P2,725,000
2002	P20,150,000
Total	P30,955,000

Q: What violations of the law were allegedly committed by Davide in the administration of the JDF?
A: According to the impeachment complaint, Davide could be guilty of unlawful underpayment of the costs of living allowance of court personnel as provided under Presidential Decree 1949, which created the JDF; unlawful disbursements of JDF funds for infrastructure projects of the Supreme Court; unlawful disbursements of JDF money for the acquisition of motor vehicles; and unlawful disbursements of the JDF as subsidy for the Court of Appeals Printing Press.

Q: Is the JDF a matter of public interest?
A: YES. The Constitution provides that discretionary funds appropriated for particular officials shall be disbursed only for public purposes to be supported by appropriate vouchers and subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by law.

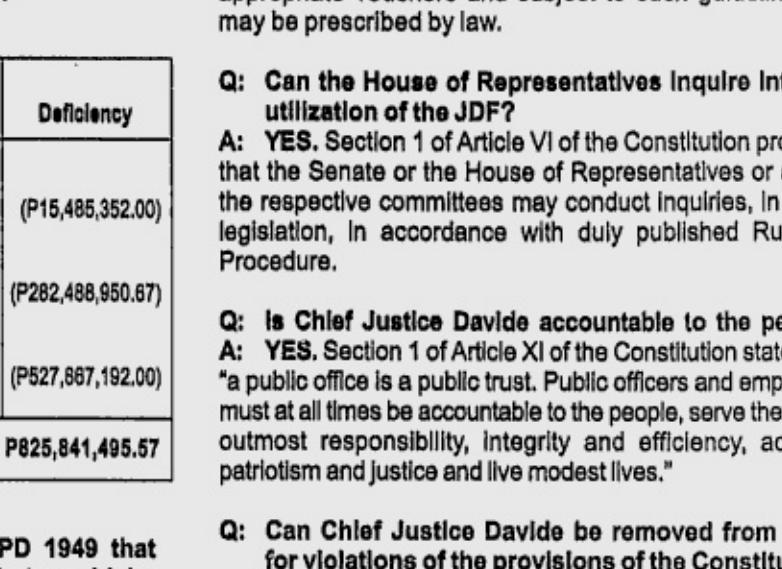
Q: Can the House of Representatives inquire into the utilization of the JDF?
A: YES. Section 1 of Article VI of the Constitution provides that the Senate or the House of Representatives or any of the respective committees may conduct inquiries, in aid of legislation, in accordance with duly published Rules of Procedure.

Q: Is Chief Justice Davide accountable to the people?
A: YES. Section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution states that "a public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with outmost responsibility, integrity and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice and live modest lives."

Q: Can Chief Justice Davide be removed from office for violations of the provisions of the Constitution?
A: YES. Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution states that " the President, the Vice President, the members of the Supreme Court, the members of the Constitutional Commission and the Ombudsman, may be removed from office, or be impeached for, and convicted of, culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption and other high crimes of betrayal of public trust."

The impeachment of Chief Justice Davide would not result to a constitutional crisis for as long as the Supreme Court will not bar Congress from trying Davide. ***Only Davide is on trial, NOT the Supreme Court.*** *He should answer the charges and defend himself.* ***There will be a crisis only if the Supreme Court will allow itself to be used by Davide as a personal shield, the same way that Davide has allegedly treated the JDF as his family's personal preserve.***

The target of the impeachment is not the Supreme Court. The target is Davide alone. *The impeachment process will strengthen the Supreme Court by removing what could be a "thorn" in its ranks. Davide should not hide behind the Supreme Court, and use it as his defense.* ***He was mistaken when he said that the fate of the Court as an institution, even the fate of the country as a whole, lives or dies with him. He is only one man and one public officer.***



From **UNMASK UGNAYAN NG MAMAMAYAN AYAW SA KATIWALIAN**

ADVT.

Pimentel to challenge 'illegal' SC order

From page A1

[senators] are the same people but performing a different function."

Pimentel stressed, however, that he was not talking about Davide's innocence or guilt. "The Chief Justice is a friend of mine," the senator said. "I believe in his integrity. I'm doing this not because [his] integrity has been compromised. No. I'm trying to uphold the provisions of our Constitution so that the rule of law will prevail."

Unanimous

At the House, Rep. Gilberto Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac), a principal proponent of the second impeachment complaint against Davide, said the chamber was "unanimous in its decision not to recognize the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court" over the case.

"It's a matter for the Senate to decide," he said, echoing Pimentel.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said that the House was "hurt" with the high court's issuance of the status quo order, and that congressmen should "protect [the chamber's] political integrity."

PIMENTEL: Impeachment court is "higher than the Supreme Court."

From discussions that started Tuesday afternoon, the House's game plan is to send a "special pleading" to the tribunal on Nov. 5 with the message that the chamber did not recognize its jurisdiction over the Davide impeachment.

On Nov. 10 when the House resumes session, it will transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. *(See banner story, Page A1)*

Out of the fray

Senate President Franklin Drilon wants it clear that the chamber is uninvolved in the controversy over Davide's impeachment.

After consulting with the Senate's legal department and the lawyer-senators of the majority bloc, Drilon submitted a two-page manifestation telling the Supreme Court that the chamber should be spared from being embroiled in the crisis arising from the high court's status quo order.

"This manifestation is submitted as a matter of comity and respect for a co-equal branch of government, but should not in any manner be interpreted as... [a concession] to the jurisdiction" of the tribunal, Drilon said.

He said the petitions filed by various parties seeking to prevent Congress from impeaching Davide were "plainly premature and have no basis in law or in fact."

"The constitutional duty of the Senate to constitute itself as an impeachment court commences only upon its receipt of the Articles of Impeachment," he added. "To date, the Senate has not received [these]. Thus, the Senate is not called upon to perform any act."

Serious implications

Drilon said at a press conference that with the Senate manifestation to the high court, he expected the chamber to eventually be excluded from appearing for oral arguments on Nov. 5.

"The reality here is that it is the House which will have to defend [its] action, not the Senate, because all the events that took place, took place in the House," he said.

But for all that, Drilon said, the high court's status quo order had "very serious implications" and required careful study.

1st in history

"This is the first time in our legal history that the Supreme Court has issued an injunction against Congress," he observed.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara aired a similar view at a separate news conference, saying the high court order was "premature" and an "unfortunate intervention" that would "unnecessarily provoke a constitutional confrontation."

"The Congress and the presidency are trying to find an honorable settlement," Angara said in reference to the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker De Venecia to find a "win-win solution" to the controversy. "That should have been the best cue for the Supreme Court to take a hands-off policy."

He said the tribunal should not have intervened because, one, political institutions were trying to settle the matter, and, two, the Chief Justice himself was involved.

Purely political

Angara, also a lawyer, cited the legal principle wherein the court does not interfere in the disposition of a case "when the matter smacks of a political nature."

"The matter of impeachment is purely a political solution provided by the Constitution, and the process should have been allowed by the Supreme Court without it stepping in at this point," he said.

He also said the adjournment of the House Tuesday was "a more effective freeze" than the status quo order "because then it is by the action of the body itself, and no one will be accused of having interfered in [House] processes."

Only by the Senate

Pimentel expressed the belief that the six petitions filed with the high court questioning the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Davide involved matters that were well within the competence of the impeachment court to settle.

"Everything that is connected with the impeachment can be addressed by the Senate acting as an impeachment court," he said.

He reminded the justices that impeachment was a purely legislative function from its initiation by the House to its conclusion by the Senate.

"Any abuse committed by the House regarding the impeachment can be corrected only by the Senate, and any abuse by the Senate can be corrected only by the people," he said. "That is how, in our system of government, separation of powers and all that [works]."

Should the high court continue to interfere with the constitutional duties of lawmakers, "it would mean that the system of checks and balances provided for in the Constitution is [for naught]," Pimentel said. *"Walang silbi.* Because then, who is going to check the executive or the judiciary if any other person can tell Congress, acting as an impeachment body, what to do and what not to do?"

Military adventurists

Pimentel said he hoped that "military adventurists will keep out of this thing, and let the civilian agencies of government tackle the problem."

He said the abrupt adjournment of both chambers of Congress on Tuesday had kept the issue hanging. "And that's the last thing that people would want to see happening in this country. I think most of our people want an end to this question the soonest time possible," he said.

Pimentel predicted that there would be no militarist movement. But he lamented that the controversy had been kept hanging—"a terrible thing for our people."

"In other words, the setting for a constitutional crisis was done because of the precipitate action taken by the Supreme Court in ordering Congress to maintain the status quo. It's not so much the way it was worded; it is the fact that there is such an order that is questionable," he said, adding:

"No matter how diplomatically it was worded, it was still an act of impropriety."

Up in arms

The bar topnotchers in the House are up in arms over the status quo order.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said impeachment was a "political process not subject to the review of the judiciary."

He said that with the standoff between Congress and the Supreme Court, the intervention of Ms Macapagal was needed more than ever: "Presidential persuasion is now needed because the presidency is the third co-equal branch. GMA can put sense into this and defuse the situation."

Trespassing

Rep. Ronaldo Zamora (Pwersa ng Masa, San Juan) said the high court was "trespassing." He added: "It has no power to halt an impeachment process."

Rep. Georgidi Aggabao (NPC, Isabela) said the tribunal's order was a "direct challenge to Congress, a co-equal branch."

"It is constitutionally suspect because impeachment is an exclusive congressional domain," he said.

Even activist Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) was turned off by the high court's status quo order.

Ocampo said Davide should "squarely answer the charges of fund misuse on the basis of simple honesty ... instead of resorting to technical constitutional arguments to save his skin."

"The issue of fund misuse is, at bottom, a question of truth, integrity and justice," Ocampo said.

Cory leads prayer rally for Davide

AT THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY yesterday afternoon, former President Corazon Aquino enjoined some 500 youths and members of civil society at a prayer rally to do their part and to take a stand on issues affecting the country.

"Let your voices be heard. You are the future of our country. That's why I urged the young ones today to join you—the real young ones," she said.

Aquino's "crusade" kicked off with a Mass at the Church of the Gesu inside the university. She said she came to the Mass to pray for unity and enlightenment for those plotting to overthrow Davide.

Aside from Aquino, the supporters of Davide included nuns, lawyers, seminarians and well-heeled women.

Other speakers who defended Davide after the Mass were his wife Virginia, who is also the chair of the Philippine Association for Volunteer Effort, and Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, dean of the Ateneo Law School.

While Aquino and Mrs. Davide chose not to touch on legal matters, almost all the speakers said Davide's impeachment last week was unconstitutional, politically motivated and railroaded in violation of Charter provisions.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who could not attend the Mass, conveyed his desire for a "principled, just and reasoned solution to the crisis."

Just resolution

In a message relayed by celebrant Fr. Catalino Arevalo SJ, Sin said that he was "not seeking to settle [the crisis] by a confrontational power play nor by a pragmatic wheeling and dealing," but by a just resolution.

But Sin, Arevalo said, remained "staunchly on the side of Davide" whom he defended as a man of integrity and honesty.

"We are not in a confrontational mood no matter our feelings," Arevalo said in his homily, adding that they were praying for the enlightenment of the country's leaders.

Salonga, Vidal declare Davide innocent

From page A1

and San Beda College.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal also practically cleared Davide whom he called "a good Christian and a good statesman" as rallies in support of Davide continue to be staged in various parts of the country.

Pastoral letter

"As fellow Cebuanos, we know [Davide] to be a man of principle and fidelity, as shown in his private life and as an active member of the Church of Cebu," the cardinal said in his two-page pastoral letter. "His track record as a public servant is unassailable in honesty, integrity and competence."

Vidal then appealed to members of the House of Representatives, who signed the impeachment complaint, especially the two legislators from Cebu, to reconsider their course of action. "We appeal to your sense of patriotism and basic decency to uphold the interest of the country first," he said.

Law of evidence

In defending Davide, Salonga said "the evidence in our possession shows that all the disbursements and expenditures, particularly the items specifically mentioned on Page 24 of the impeachment complaint, were approved not by Chief Justice Davide alone," but by the Supreme Court en banc.

Salonga said the congressmen belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition could make allegations of graft, malfeasance, breach of public trust and thoughtless extravagance against the Chief Justice. "But in the law of evidence, the best evidence of the administration of the fund, particularly the committee recommendation and the approval by the entire Supreme Court, is the document itself," he said in a statement.

Committees

Salonga said that while the dictator Ferdinand Marcos gave absolute power to the Chief Justice in the administration of the JDF when he issued Presidential Decree No. 1949 in 1984, Davide formed committees, usually headed by associate justices, to study, discuss and recommend disbursement of the fund.

"Chief Justice Davide ... transformed his sole exclusive power and duty into an instrument of democracy by appointing several committees that would study, discuss and recommend to the entire Supreme Court for approval of every disbursement and expenditure of the JDF," Salonga said.

Some of the committees are even headed by justices who, according to Salonga, are somehow identified with former President Joseph Estrada and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Documentary evidence

"If this democratic innovation is an impeachable offense because it is a deviation from PD 1949 issued by a dictator, the entire Supreme Court should be impeached, which would include, ironically, the dissenting justices in the coco levy case [that was decided against NPC founder Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.]," Salonga said.

"If this documentary evidence, which is known to every member of the court, was known to [Cojuangco and Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and William Fuentebella], then there is probably a willful suppression of evidence," he added. Teodoro and Fuentebella are the proponents of the impeachment complaint.

90 percent

Salonga said the Commission on Audit report on how the Judiciary Development Fund was spent since 2000 showed that the ratio of cost of living allowance to the JDF was 90 percent from 2000 to 2002)—much more than the 80-percent minimum mandated by PD 1949 (the JDF law).

Salonga said that the computation of JDF utilization percentages, portions of which were first presented by Solita Monsod in her column in the INQUIRER, showed that the ratio of cost of living allowance to income was 129 percent in 2000, 76 percent in 2000 and 73 percent in 2002.

"Or 90 percent of the total for the three years, which is greater than the 80 percent required minimum," Salonga said.

Express outrage

In Bacolod, the Peace Advocates of Negros (PAN) called on Negrenses to express their outrage over the move to impeach Davide by sending text messages to their congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint.

Wearing black ribbons and shirts, PAN members staged a motorcade and noise barrage in Bacolod at about 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon from the Capitol Lagoon Park.

"As sovereign citizens, we demand that congressmen open their books for public audit and publish an accounting of their CDF (Countryside Development Fund) and P100 million pork barrel per year just as they are asserting their oversight power over the JDF," PAN said.

In Cebu, the Citizens for Judicial Independence (CJI) asked Cebuanos to continue wearing black armbands and participate in noise barrages while the impeachment issue remained unresolved.

'Thief in the night'

Fr. Carmelo Diola, a convenor of CJI, said their group had agreed to boycott San Miguel Corp. products. "Upon weighing all data and information, we concluded that the person behind the impeachment process who came like a thief in the night was Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco who happens to control San Miguel," he said.

"We have nothing against the people working in San Miguel because these are good people," he said.

The Cebu City government headed by Vice Mayor Michael Rama initiated a noise barrage at 9 p.m., which was participated in by urban poor groups on board 10 city-owned Kaoshiong buses and 46 multi-cabs. ***Reports from Norman Bordadora, Tina Santos and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, Bernadette Parco and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Davide tormentor youngest ...

From page A1

degree from the University of the Philippines.

He stopped his law studies at the Ateneo de Manila University when he could no longer juggle his time as a congressman.

He is the son of former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella who replaced then Speaker Manuel Villar in 2000 in the aftermath of Villar's controversial referral to the Senate of the impeachment complaint against then President Joseph Estrada.

Popeye's Wimpy

Fuentebella was given the nickname Wimpy by his grandfather, former Camarines Sur Gov. Felix Fuentebella, because of the young boy's fondness for hamburgers.

Wimpy is the hamburger-munching character in the long-running cartoon "Popeye" whose main line is "I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today."

The grandfather Fuentebella was fond of assigning names of cartoon characters to his grandchildren. One of the young Fuentebella's brothers is nicknamed Archie.

No chicken

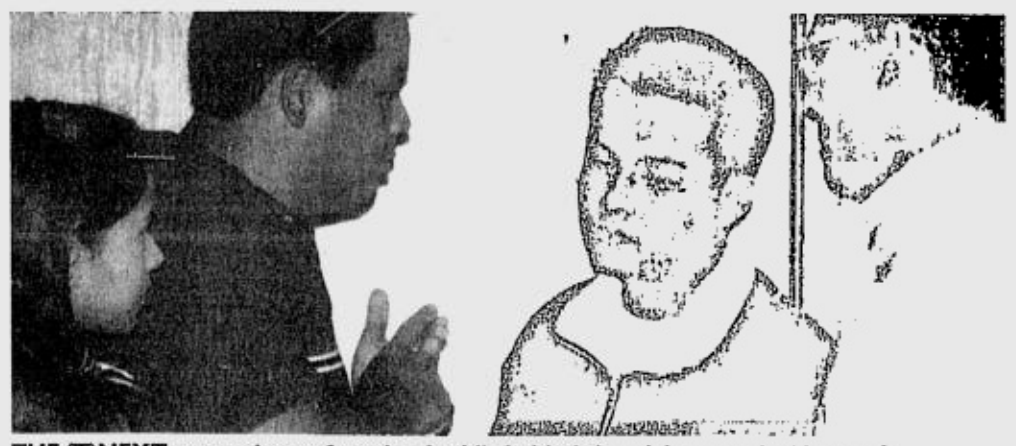
Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Fuentebella's fraternity brother at the UP-based Upsilon Sigma Phi, said the congressman was "someone who doesn't chicken out" when he sees a good fight.

"He's a very sincere fellow, straightforward and definitely not a wimp," Remulla said. "He's respected and he's respectful of proper processes."

Fuentebella started as political affairs officer of his father when the latter was still congressman. He was in charge of working with barangay chairs.

Teodoro's pal

A day after the impeachment complaint was filed in the House, Fuentebella and other



THE (T)NEXT generation up front in a huddle behind closed doors at the House of Representatives: from left, Representatives Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Michael John Duavit, Felix William Fuentebella, Mark Cojuangco. JOAN BONDOC

NPC leaders were seen hanging out in the Batasang Pambansa office of Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr.

Their spirits were high as the complaint had secured the endorsement of at least one-third of the House.

Apparently still flushed with the adrenaline high of having taken on the Chief Justice himself, Fuentebella kept pacing the room, at times bending his knees.

Teodoro, the other congressman who initiated the impeachment complaint, put his arms on Fuentebella's shoulder and shook him in a brotherly way, as if to reassure his young colleague.

Danding's heir-apparent

Teodoro, 39, is considered the political heir-apparent of his uncle, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. He is the acknowledged leader of the tightly knit 64-person NPC in the House that includes two Cojuangco sons, Mark and Carlos.

With Mark and Carlos Cojuangco preferring to stay in the background, it is Teodoro who articulates the NPC line, and his word is regarded as reflective of his uncle's thinking.

Even Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. acknowledges that Teodoro calls the shots for the NPC in the House.

Bar topnotcher

Teodoro was first placer in the 1989 bar examinations. He was a consistent dean's lister at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

He has a master's degree in law from Harvard. He also passed the New York state bar exams.

He practiced law at the E.P. Mendoza Law Office from 1990 to 1997.

He worked his way up the political ladder, starting as president of the Kabataang Barangay of Tarlac and of the KB-Central Luzon from 1980 to 1985. He also served as Sanguniang Panlalawigan member of Tarlac from 1980 to 1986.

He ran for Congress in 1998.

Teodoro is a certified marksman with a .45 caliber automatic pistol and an M-16 rifle.

Ganzon family fights over his dead body

From page A1

But it was not to be for former Sen. Rodolfo T. Ganzon who died here yesterday at 81.

A few hours after his death was announced, his 10 children from his first marriage and grandchildren stormed the hospital and wheeled out his body, without the consent of his second wife, Rona Anape, 37.

Two hearses from two separate funeral parlors arrived due to the disagreements between Rona and the Ganzon children over the funeral arrangements and his last will.

The children prevailed and brought Ganzon's remains to the family ancestral home in Barangay San Antonio, Molo District, where the wake is now being held.

First wife

Ganzon's first wife Dolores Padoginog died in 1989. Two years later, he married Rona in civil rights in Cebu City and in Catholic rites the same year.

But Anape was never welcomed into the family by the Ganzon children. But her husband of 13 years, said Rona, loved her all this time. The Ganzon property was another bone of contention between Rona and her stepchildren.

Sued father

In 1996, the children of Ganzon sued their own father for their inheritance and won the case. Ganzon's property were partitioned among the children and Ganzon.

Rona said what was left was their conjugal property, hers and Ganzon.

The children also sued for guardianship, with Ganzon's son Freeman seeking to be the guardian of his father's property.

When the Regional Trial Court dismissed the case, the children elevated the case to the Court of Appeals.

Recently, the Ganzon siblings also filed for an annulment of the marriage of their father to Rona in a Manila court on the ground that Rona had falsified some entries in their marriage certificate like her age and place of birth. Ironically, the hearing was scheduled on the day Ganzon died.

Visiting rights denied

Ganzon's children also asked the court that they be given the right to visit their father in the hospital for two hours every week. But the court denied it.

Ganzon had been confined in the hospital since May 2002 due to various illnesses. Three days after he was hospitalized, Ganzon had to be attached to a respirator most of the time.

He could not speak for one year and five months due to a tracheotomy, said Rona.

Multi-organ failure

Last Friday, his doctors led by Ricardo Portido told Rona that Ganzon was suffering from multi-organ failure and should go through dialysis. But Rona said she decided against the dialysis upon the request of Ganzon.

Rona said Ganzon's heartbeat faded at around 3 a.m. yesterday. The doctors tried to resuscitate him twice. He was pronounced dead at 6:33 a.m. on Wednesday, a day after Rona turned 37.

'Prince of common man'

The family feud over his dead body is a tragic ending of a life led in service to his people and country.

Also dubbed "Prince of the *timawa* (common man)", Ganzon was known as the Father of Free Education for sponsoring the law that provided for free elementary and secondary education while he was senator from 1963 to 1969.

Among his contemporaries are Senators Jovito Salonga and Ma. Eva Estrada Kalaw.

A critic of then President Marcos, Ganzon was imprisoned during the martial rule for 14 years, six years behind bars and under house arrest for eight years.

Accused of rebellion and illegal possession of firearms, Ganzon was convicted by a military tribunal and sentenced to double life imprisonment. He was released in 1986.

Ganzon served two terms as congressman of Iloilo City and province (1953-1955; 1961-1963, and four terms as mayor of Iloilo City (1955-1959; 1959-1961; 1971-1972; 1988-1990).

His last-held public office was Presidential Assistant for the Visayas in 2001.

Ganzon started his political career as city councilor in 1951, when he was 29 years old.

Ganzon placed third in the 1950 bar examination with a grade of 91.1 percent.

Support of the poor

He organized the Timawa Party, which rallied the support of the poor and the middle class in Iloilo.

The party carried a populist stance that was effective in countering elite politics exemplified by the Lopezes in the province, and members of the sugar bloc.

The Timawa Party has endured to this day because it has sent a number of poor and deserving children to school, with some of them becoming lawyers, teachers and politicians themselves.

He was noted for his oratory and fiery speeches in the halls of Congress, earning him the "stormy petrel" moniker.

Among the landmark laws he authored and sponsored were Republic Act 1209 (Iloilo City Freedom Law, 1955), making elective the positions of mayor, vice mayor and councilors; Republic Act 6111 (Medicare Law in 1967); and Republic Act 4868 (Police Reform Law, 1967).

When as senator aligned with Nacionalista Party in 1957, Ganzon crossed party lines to break the deadlock in the Senate Electoral Tribunal during the age disqualification case of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who was with the Liberal Party.

On election day, Aquino lacked 13 days to be 35 years old, the minimum age for senators. However, the Liberal Party pointed out that Aquino was a few days older than 35 at the time of his proclamation as senator.

Cory criticized

Ganzon would often proudly say that he was responsible for making Aquino a senator.

A political maverick even after Edsa I, Ganzon often criticized President Corazon Aquino. Between 1990 to 1991, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) slapped him with several temporary suspension orders that lasted for a year but the Supreme Court ruled that a public official could not be suspended for more than 90 days.

Catholic Church not spared

Ganzon had also criticized the Catholic Church and national government agencies for not paying real property taxes, threatening to sell their property in public auction.

For a time, he was denied the sacraments by the Church because of his scathing remarks against the late Jaro Archbishop Alberto Piamonte in 1992.

Even in the twilight of his life, Ganzon continued to wield political clout, endorsing local and national candidates during elections.

Politicians and local media would seek his opinion on national and local issues, and visited him in his sick bed at Iloilo's St. Paul Hospital.

His last prominent visitor was Senate President Franklin Drilon, who dropped by last Saturday.

When he learned of Ganzon's death yesterday, Drilon said that Ilonggos should be proud that they were able to produce a leader with the quality of Ganzon.

Local leaders, among them Rep. Raul Gonzalez, Iloilo Mayor Jerry Trenas and Iloilo Governor Niel Tupas paid tribute to his achievements as a political leader.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) hereby caution local government officials and the general public against fixers who offer to facilitate fund releases for DA projects in exchange for a hefty commission.

These unscrupulous people secure copies of fund release documents through dubious means. The documents are then used to lure would-be victims such as local government officials, private contractors and suppliers, to deal with and pay down payment to the fixer.

It has also come to our attention that copies of DA requests for release of funds get into the hands of suppliers and contractors through enterprising "middlemen". These "middlemen" entice said suppliers and contractors to pay 20% advance commission in exchange for contracts in projects supposedly to be funded from the submitted request.

Agency requests do not guarantee release of funds. Furthermore, release of funds strictly follow prescribed systems and procedures that do not require any assistance from fixers.

We urge the general public and all concerned to be vigilant and report such anomalous activities to the DBM or the DA.

EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Secretary
Department of Budget & Management

LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

ADVT.

FOUR DIGIT
1 0 4 9
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Tondo folk had whiff of danger

By Tarra Quismundo

PEOPLE downed by the outbreak of acute gastroenteritis in Tondo, Manila, had smelled danger coming but failed to avoid it.

Even before the sudden rise in the cases of diarrhea, residents of Velasquez Street in Barangay 102 have been complaining that water coming out of their faucets had a bad odor.

Barangay chair Felipe delos Santos said their tap water smelled as bad as that in the drainage ditches that lined the neighborhood's streets and alleys, where mostly lower middle-class residents live.

"We can't even use it for washing clothes," Delos Santos said in an interview.

From the tap

In his barangay, some 3,000 residents get their water from their faucets connected to a single pipe of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Delos Santos said that among the residents in his area, the worst affected by the dirty water were the children.

The chairman added that children aged 5 to 10 had been rushed to the Gat Andres Bonifacio, due to stomach ache, vomiting, and diarrhea, symptoms of acute gastroenteritis.

From midnight last Thursday to Monday night, some 318 residents of Velasquez, Raxabago, Varona, Capulong and Tayabas streets in Tondo poured into different hospitals in Manila.

More cases

The other day, the hospitals, including Tondo General Hospital, Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital, Ospital ng Tondo and Mary Johnston Hospital, reported that the confirmed cases of acute gastroenteritis are at 215.

The number, however, could be higher after the INQUIRER learned that some of those stricken were taken to clinics and other private medical centers in the area.

Clemente San Gabriel, Manila Health Department administrative officer and sanitation inspector, said yesterday that 20 new cases had been reported.

He likewise confirmed that 11 cholera cases had been identified as of yesterday, but the names of the victims were not released.

But San Gabriel added that they were still determining if these were related to the outbreak as cases of diarrhea were common among Tondo residents.

And while the Manila Health Department declared the outbreak as already considered contained, the water in Tondo continued to stink.

And the smell seemed to have a schedule, Delos Santos noted.

The chairman explained that the smell usually reached its stinking peak at 6 a.m., then gradually receded as the day progressed.

Clear by afternoon

Luz Balaes, who lives with eight of her family near the barangay hall, said that the smell cleared during the latter part of the day.

"My roof is topped with gallons of water which I get from the faucet when the water doesn't smell," Balaes said.

She admitted having installed a booster pump at her house but said it was because very little was already coming out of her faucet.

Delos Santos said water pressure was low in their area.

YOUNG victims of the seepage of E. coli bacteria in the water supply of an area in Tondo get treatment at the Dr. Santos Medical Clinic, a neighborhood clinic. They are not included in the official count of the number of people downed by a diarrhea in the district. JESS YUSON

Maynilad springs to action

THE MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has been working overtime to stop the outbreak of acute gastroenterities in Tondo, Manila, its president Rafael Alunan III said yesterday.

This developed as the water firm expressed belief that the problem could have been avoided had the National Housing Authority, which developed the area 30 years ago, used pipes and fittings that met quality standards.

In a press statement, Alunan said the water firm's Crisis Management Team was trying to pinpoint the cause of the water contamination in the Tondo Foreshore Area.

The crisis team met yesterday to map out solutions to the problem which it hoped to resolve as soon as possible.

Among the key initiatives undertaken were:

- The increase in water pressure in the affected area to flush out contaminants
- Deployment of 10 water tanks in addition to the six tankers tasked to supply water to residents
- On-site treatment of water with chlorine
- The disconnection of illegal water connections and the immediate repair of 235 leaks caused by these.

According to Alunan's statement, low water pressure in the area had prompted residents to resort to illegal connections and water pumps that eventually led to bacteria being sucked into the water system.

He said they were looking at the use of "substandard PVC pipes and polybutylene tubings" as a major cause for these illegal acts.

Alunan noted that the area used to be a garbage dump which was reclaimed and then developed 30 years ago by the NHA as a low-cost residential area.

Maynilad assured its customers that its water was chlorinated, potable and exceeds local and international standards.

PNU prof murdered at home

By Leila B. Salaverria

PROFESSOR Romero B. Royo would not be coming back to teach at the Philippine Normal University after the semestral break is over.

He was found dead on Tuesday inside his apartment unit at room 17-C of the GSIS building on Anonas Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila with several stab wounds in the body.

SP02 Steve Casimiro said the foul odor coming from Royo's apartment unit prompted the president of the building's homeowners association, Noli Valerio, and utility man Rudy Lina to enter Royo's unit to investigate the source.

When Valerio and Lina opened the door, they saw the professor's body lying on its back on the living room floor. It was in the early stages of decomposition.

Splotches of blood also dotted the walls, furniture and other fixtures in the living room, while broken glass littered the floor of the victim's apartment, which indicated that Royo put up a fight with his attacker, said Casimiro.

He added that Royo's bedroom was also in disarray and his personal belongings were strewn on the floor as if the suspect had been searching for something.

No forced entry

Casimiro also said there had been no forced entry in Royo's home. This signified that the victim knew who his assailant was and let the latter in his house.

Royo, a professor of Epektibong Pagsulat (effective writing) and Gamiting Filipino sa Iba't-ibang Disiplina (usage of Filipino in different disciplines), and also a cum laude graduate of the PNU, was last seen alive on Thursday last week when he went to pay his dues with the homeowners association.

The professor's body was brought to the Universal Funeral Parlor while the police searched for his relatives.

Royo is the second professor to be found dead at the GSIS residential building in Sta. Mesa in the past two months.

Last Sept. 21, Adamson University professor Arnel Bautista was also found dead in the building with a massive head injury. Bautista's cellular phones, cash and jewelry were missing.

LTO starts issuing plates that can outlast cars

NOW you can literally have your car named after you after the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) gave the go signal for the Land Transportation Office to issue so-called vanity license plates (VLP).

DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza launched the VLP program pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Order No. 65 which authorizes the department to issue optional motor vehicle plates bearing the inscriptions preferred by the vehicle owner.

In launching the program, Mendoza said the VLP would only be issued to a duly registered motor vehicle owner who has a regular license plate.

The regular plate shall be the basis for the renewal of the registration of motor vehicles.

Mendoza said that the VLP would be effective for a lifetime, unless revoked by the LTO due to violations of law and non-compliance with the agency's rules and regulations.

The vanity plate shall be issued only once to a duly registered vehicle.

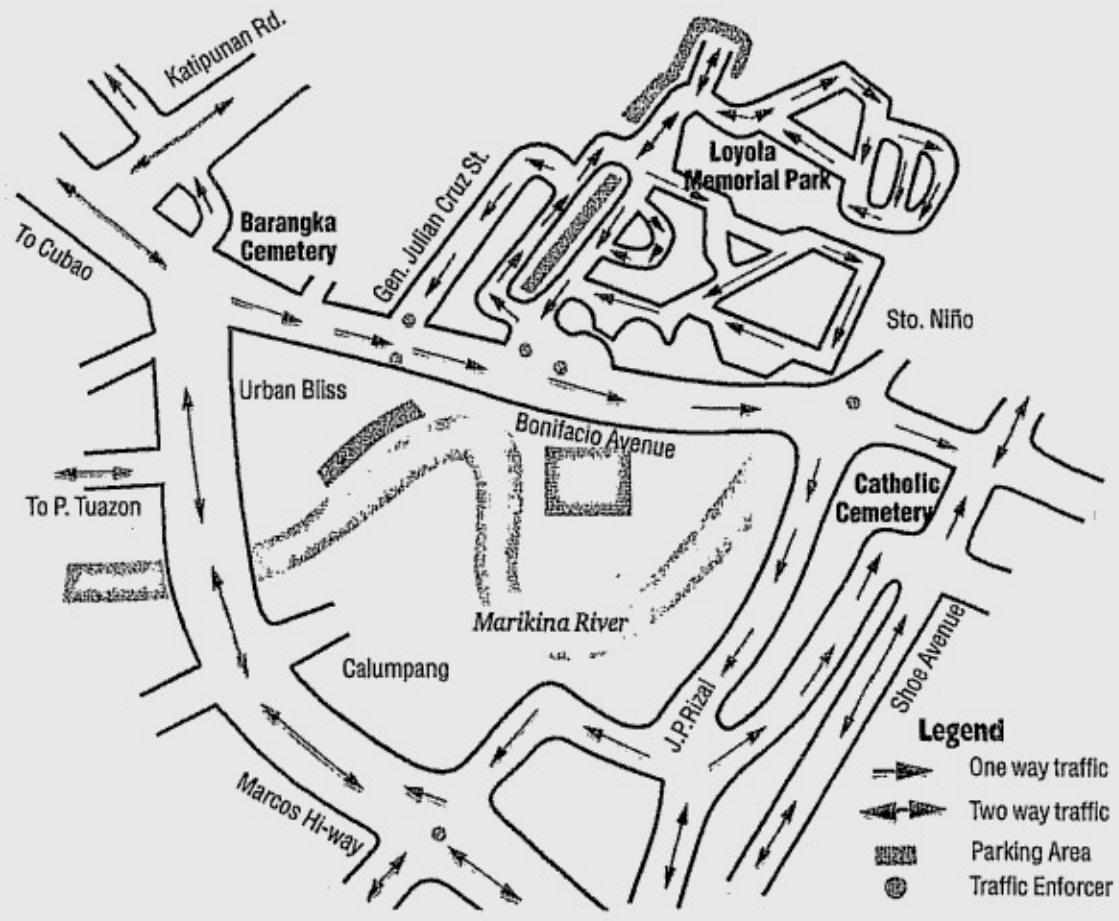
Commercial or for hire vehicles, ambulances, government, diplomatic and other exempt vehicles (OEV) would not be authorized to display VLPs, Mendoza disclosed.

DOTC spokesman Thompson Lantion said the VLP was already available for reservation at any LTO authorized district office nationwide.

A reservation fee of P1,000 per category will be collected either through the authorized depository bank or LTO cashiers and will be deducted from the cost of the plate.

Lantion said that upon issuance, the VLP shall be attached to the rear portion of the vehicle.

MENDOZA: Vanity is in.



LOYOLA (MARIKINA) MEMORIAL PARK RE-ROUTING
Starting Oct. 31, the Philippine National Police and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will be enforcing the above routes for All Souls Day.

Woman, maid slain in gangland rubout

By Luige del Puerto

A BUSINESSWOMAN and her maid were found brutally murdered inside their home in Pasig City Tuesday night in what police described as a gangland style killing.

Shirley Canillo, 30, of 10262 Jupiter Street, Maryland, Centennial 2-A, Nagpayong in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, was discovered lying on the floor inside the master's bedroom at about 6:30 p.m.

She was stabbed twice in the back and shot in the head at close range, the police said.

Her maid, Joan Arnaiz, was hogtied inside the servant's quarter and made to bend on her knees before being shot twice, investigators added.

The police said the murders were done by members of a robbery gang victimizing bus passengers in the outskirts of Metro Manila.

"The businesswoman knew too much about the activities of this gang, so they killed her. The maid just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," Insp. Jovy Iquin, head of the city's criminal investigation unit, said.

A plastic bag containing fresh blood led to the arrest of Canillo's live-in partner, Oscar Lisona, 32.

Iquin said when they opened the bag, they found 65 different ID cards inside, bolstering their belief that Lisona was working for the robbery gang.

Iquin said Lisona often pretends to be a Makati policeman. He also owns a bulletproof vest.

Lisona denied any involvment in the twin killings.

A carpenter working on the house said three men entered Canillo's residence at 5:30 p.m.

He then heard loud music emanating from the house.

After the three men left, Lisona came out of the house carrying a handgun, the police said. *With a report from Edgar Sembrano*

PNP all set for observance of All Souls Day

By Christine A. Paita

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has deployed its forces in preparation for All Saints Day this weekend.

Southern Police District Director Jose Gutierrez Jr. has advised commuters who would be going home to the provinces or to the cemeteries to be vigilant.

He said a large number of people was expected to rush to bus terminals starting today so the SPD intensified police presence at bus terminals, especially in Pasay City and Muntinlupa City. He said the SPD would use sniffing dogs from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to detect bombs, prohibited drugs and other illegal materials in the terminals.

The police chief also warned commuters against suspicious-looking luggage, usually left unattended.

He said homeowners should double-check the locks on their gates, doors and windows before they leave home.

Gutierrez added that the SPD would integrate the security plans of local police units and coordinate with the local government and barangay watchmen.

In Manila, the Western Police District has gone on full alert starting yesterday.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod yesterday said policemen would be deployed starting today to the four cemeteries in the city to make sure that no bombs would be planted there.

The WPD will also set up a command post along Blumentritt Street beginning Friday. A Red Cross station will also be in place, along with a lost and found area and a communication center.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza has also directed DOTC Action Centers to tighten the security of all seaports, airports, railway stations and bus terminals against terrorist attacks.

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) has also acted to secure commuters.

Engr. Rodrigo Bulario, officer-in-charge of LRT operations, said skip trains would be dispatched to pick up passengers from heavily crowded stations, such as Abad Santos, Blumentritt and R. Papa.

He said LRTA would also deploy more personnel to man ticket booths and would set up satellite booths to avoid long passenger queues. There will also be a medical team posted in main stations, he added.

Malabon City battle of wits worsens

Edson Tandoc Jr.

EMPLOYEES of the Malabon City Business Permits and License Office (BPLO) have yet to receive their salaries yesterday.

A sudden change in the office's lead official has caused the delay, and the employees are anxious that a leadership crisis might develop after acting Mayor Jayjay Yambao reassigned BPLO chief Marvin Amiana to the Office of the City Administrator.

Yambao assigned on Monday Arsenio Villegas to Amiana's post. This has sown confusion among the employees, on whose signature should appear in their daily time records.

Amiana has also refused to leave his office. About 20 employees of the BPLO have stood by their chief, refusing to recognize the new head.

A BPLO employee yesterday said that when one of them went to the City Hall's cashier in the morning for the scheduled release of salaries, they were told that their wages were "on hold."

The BPLO employees said they were being required to have their daily time records signed by Villegas. But most of them told the INQUIRER they would recognize only Amiana as their head.

But Hernando Dabalos, spokesperson of Yambao, told the INQUIRER yesterday afternoon that the confusion arouse out of some "misinformation."

He said that the BPLO employees should have their daily time records from Oct. 16-24 signed by Amiana. But Villegas, the official who took over, should be the one to sign their records for the days after Amiana was reassigned.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the BPLO employees have yet to get their salaries.

Noel Alvarado, an employee, told the INQUIRER that nobody had explained to them what to do with their daily time records so they could get their salaries.

Amiana, who said earlier that he would not relinquish his post, yesterday told the INQUIRER he would file an indefinite leave on Nov. 3 to spare his employees from further tension and confusion.

Yambao took over as acting mayor after Malacañang suspended Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio on Thursday for "abuse of authority."

In an earlier interview, Vicencio said his lawyers were exploring all legal possibilities in questioning the suspension either before the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

METROBRIEFS

Fire drill panic

A SERIES of explosions followed by smoke sent people into panic yesterday in Makati City. But the explosions turned out to be a fire drill conducted by the Makati Central Fire Station at the Smart Tower on Ayala Avenue, according to SFO4 Edgardo Nograles. He said staff members of the fire station had set off three firecrackers at 2:30 p.m. at the back of the building to start the fire drill. But smoke was emitted by a fog machine used by the company for pest control to simulate a fire, alarming the people in the area. The drill was conducted behind the building (on Valero Street) to avoid disrupting traffic along Ayala Avenue. Police said Smart had requested the fire drill in compliance with the Fire Code of the Philippines or PD 1185.

QC water cut-off

NINE barangays in Quezon City will have no water for 23 hours starting at 11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, until 10 p.m. of the following day. Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the water service interruption would be due to interconnection works at the corner of Edsa and Roosevelt Avenue. Barangays to be affected are Katipunan, San Antonio, Del Monte, Damayan, Mariblo, Paraiso and Paltok and portions of barangays Bungad and Veterans. The area along the southbound stretch of Edsa between Roosevelt and Bansalangin will also have no water. Affected customers may call the Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule.

Remember Ador?

FOR THE NTH time, Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, the discredited whistle-blower in the drug case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, has failed to show up at his arraignment before a Pasig City Regional Trial Court. Mawanay is charged with three counts of estafa for duping Garlando Caparpos of a total of P76,000 in 1997. Judge Celso Lavina of Branch 71 had to reset the arraignment to Dec. 1. He also reiterated his arrest order for Mawanay. *Luige del Puerto*

Body in sack

A SACK floating in the Marikina River yielded the body of Orlande Macaraig of Palay Street, Tumana, Concepcion Uno, Marikina City, on Tuesday morning. He was hogtied with a nylon cord and wrapped in masking tape. The body bore multiple stab wounds. The police have yet to determine the motive behind the killing. *Edgar Allan Sembrano*

THS '73 reunion

TORRES High School Batch '73 will be holding its 30th Reunion on Nov. 21 at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila, at 7 p.m. For details please contact Ric Torres at 0917-5265350 or 725-1319

Discovery's 25th

DISCOVERY Weekend or DW, the pioneering marriage preparation program in the country, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Nov. 22, highlighted by Fr. Ruben Tanseco's talk on "The Challenge to the Filipino Male in the 21st Century." Dinner will follow. The proceeds will go to funding of outreach projects. DW helps engaged couples discern whether they are really meant for each other and teaches skills in dialoguing and other communication techniques important to married couples. All graduates of the program are invited to attend the celebration. Tickets are available at P500 per couple. Please call Lala at 426-1271 or visit DW website at www.discoveryweekend.org and register online.

SC-House impasse to be resolved

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FEARS of some quarters that there will be a constitutional crisis as a result of the quarrel between the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide will not come to pass.

The Filipino people won't stand for that.

There will be a way out of the crisis. A solution that will satisfy both parties—the Supreme Court and the House—will be found.

* * *

It's a case of amor propio or pride on both sides.

However, pride flies out the window when both sides see the folly of their action.

The justices and the congressmen concerned will set aside satisfying their ego and give way to national interest.

Otherwise, justices and congressmen, you should be ashamed of yourselves!

* * *

Instead of staying in his air-conditioned office at the main office of the Commission on Elections, why doesn't Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos pay a visit to the Makati Comelec office?

I've received complaints from at least two friends about the very disorderly listing of first-time voters at the Comelec-Makati office.

Here's a text message from Tess Dumana, former journalist:

"Hi Mon, big favor pls (please). cn (can) u ask those dolts at comelec makati 2 (to) thnk (think) up a systm 2 make d regstratn (the registration) ordrly, w/o (without) wastng pipol's (people's) tym (time)? Pls kakapikon na! Puro bobo b (ba) ang nasa comelec? Why dsnt (doesn't) abalos hire a systms guy 2 do d thnkng 4 him if he cnt (can't) do it on hs (his) own? pls mon, my doter (daughter), a lst timer, s (is) desperate. Tnx.

* * *

Another friend, Rosvi Angeles, said that she and other first-time voters lined up starting at 5 a.m. or three hours before the start of office hours only to find that there was disorderly processing of their papers.

Because of this chaotic situation at the Makati Comelec office, many of them left the line and decided not to come back.

Some of the first registrants were turned off by the discourtesy of the Comelec-Makati employees.

"We had to bear waiting in line for hours, only to be met by discourteous employees," Angeles said.

Mr. Abalos, the discourtesy of your subordinates reflects on your leadership!

* * *

Two witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case said they were dissuaded from pursuing their testimony because they received money from the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

The witnesses are Myrna Soronda Abalora and Armando Capili. They said they were made to sign affidavits of desistance prepared for them by Lacson's aides. For that, Abalora said she received P5 million while Capili said he got P300,000.

Why are they coming out again? Probably because they couldn't get more money from Ping and company?

* * *

Anyway, it's better they have decided to testify again against Lacson and company than to just keep quiet.

Their confession of being bribed in order not to testify is not new.

SPO2 Eduardo delos Reyes, the principal whistle-blower in the Kuratong Baleleng case, was also reportedly given oodles and oodles of money to withdraw his testimony. He has settled down in Canada.

The prosecution panel in the "Kuratong" case can probably go to Canada to try to convince Delos Reyes to go back on his retraction and testify against Ping Lacson and his co-accused.

I know the person who can talk to Delos Reyes. This person acted as Lacson's go-between for Delos Reyes. He has since parted ways with Ping Lacson.

* * *

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara says that actor Fernando Poe Jr. could make the best candidate for President in 2004 because he has no vices.

Mr. Angara, isn't boozing a vice?

FPJ is a "boozer" just like his friend, deposed President Erap.

* * *

If the opposition can't field a presidential candidate better than FPJ, then this country is really going to the dogs!

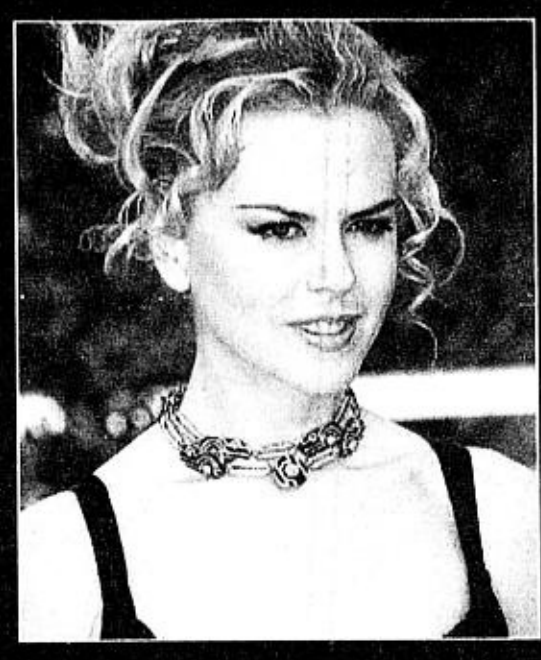
I have nothing personal against FPJ; I find him a very nice person.

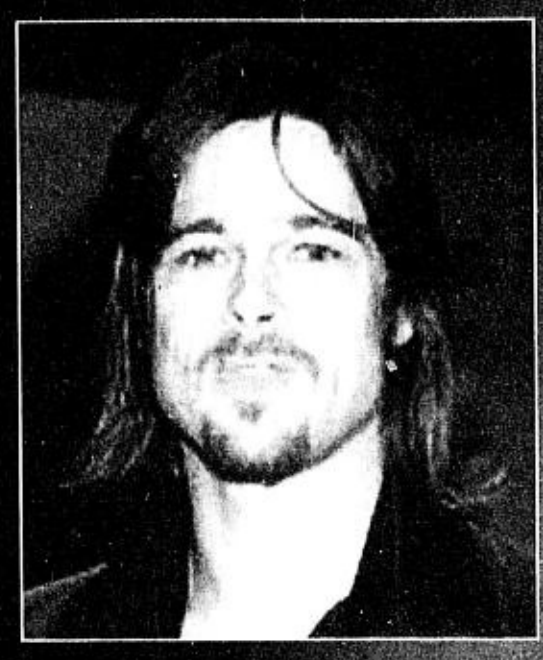
But he's not qualified to run our country just because he killed many Japanese soldiers in his movies.

SMART GOLD

Simply The Gold Life.

Subscribe to SMART Gold and meet the stars of the silver screen.





Handset offer is from October 31 to November 6, 2003.

Requirements:

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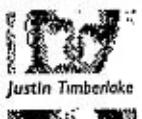
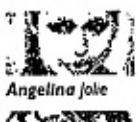
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
Birth Date: January 31, 1981
Singer. Former Nsync member. With singles like "Cry Me A River", "Rock Your Body" and "Like I Love You".

KATE BECKINSALE
Born in 1973
Actress. Starred in Movies like "Pearl Harbor" and "Serendipity"

JASON BIGGS
Birth Date: May 12, 1978
Actor. Starred in movies like "American Pie" 1 and 2, and "American Wedding"


Justin Timberlake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AFRO-ASIAN GAMES

Gabito bags silver

By Roy Luarca

HYDERABAD, India—Filipina Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito leapt into the 1st Afro-Asian Games history Wednesday, clearing 6.30 meters and clinching the silver medal behind local heroine Anju George in the women's long jump at the 30,000-seat GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium here.

Gabito secured second place in her second of three attempts, edging Nigeria's Aghatise Ester, who also recorded 6.30m, but in five tries.

"I stayed focused and just did my best," said Gabito, champion of the Manila leg of the Asian Grand Prix in June and bronze medallist in the Manila Asian Athletics Association Championships last month.

George, the Busan Asiad champion and third placer in the World Athletics Championships in Paris, cleared 6.53m.

Another Filipina entry, Marestella Torres, landed fifth with a best try of 6.29m.

The Philippines earlier gained one bronze medal, but lost one Tuesday.

Continuing their strong showing at the pool, the women's 4x100-meter medley relay team placed third behind South Africa and India .

But there was gloom in the boxing camp when bantamweight Ferdie Gamo's 2-1 victory over Algeria's Bouziane Malik in the quarterfinals Monday was reversed by the grand jury.

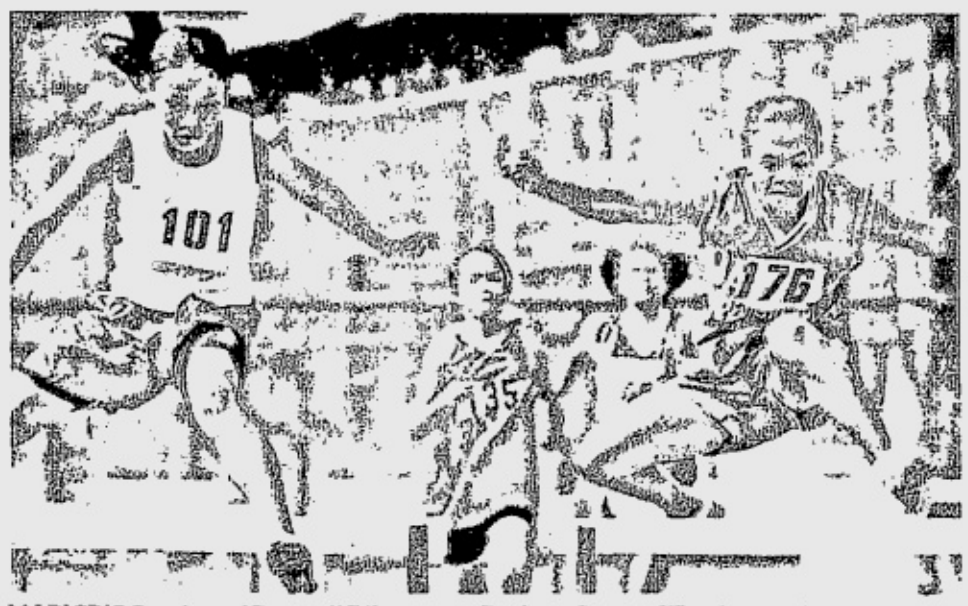
The jury chaired by Uganda's Francis Nyangweso, a retired general, rewarded Malik, a winner in the All-African Games in Abuja recently, with a 5-4 victory that sent him into the semifinals against Uzbekistan's Bajodirjon Soltonov.

Composed of juniors aged 16 and below, the relay medley team of Liane Marice Marquez, who had earlier captured a silver in the 50m women's backstroke, Aphrodite Magbanua, Marinela Arabejo and Nicole Santiago clocked 4 minutes 48.13 seconds. South Africa timed 4:24.58 for the gold and India 4:37.51 for the silver.

It was the third bronze for the swimmers, who are standouts of the recent Southeast Asian juniors held in San Pablo City.

Gamo's downfall left lightflyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla and lightweight Roel Laguna to carry the fight for the boxing squad headed by Amateur Boxing Association of the

GABITO/ A27



MARICRIS Sanchez of Davao (176) engages Darlene Ostan of Zamboanga in a tight battle in the 400-meter hurdles final. Sanchez eventually won the gold. EDWIN BACASMAS

IBC pulls out; Barakos thwart Tigers

By June Navarro

GAMES SUNDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4::0 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs SMB
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods

THE INTERNATIONAL Broadcasting Corporation (IBC-13) has stopped airing the Philippine Basketball Association games after television coverage partner NBN-4 failed to pay its airtime dues.

Meanwhile, Scott Burrell achieved a personal goal as the Red Bull Barakos subdued the Coca-Cola Tigers, 89-84, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

"I want to keep our streak going and at the same time beat the top team in the league. Those were my personal goals coming into the game," said Burrell, who paced the Barakos with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The falling out between the two government stations stemmed from the unpaid airtime worth roughly P30 million that IBC-13 had incurred for

IBC/ A26

Davao rules Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Davao, gaining a windfall of golds from the ball games, overtook host Northern Mindanao yesterday to score a two-division championship sweep of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Grabbing a total of 20 golds after topping football and girls' softball, Davao finished with a frontrunning 43 gold medals on top of 39 silvers and 24 bronzes in the secondary division.

The Davaoeños fell one gold short of that total in ruling the elementary level with 42 victories that included 18 in athletics and a six-gold romp for winning boys volleyball. They also picked up 41 silvers and 23 bronzes.

Northern Mindanao wound up with a gold-silver-bronze collection of 36-9-20 in the secondary division and 33-33-29 in the elementary bracket.

Proving a boon for Davao was the Palaro rule giving members of winning teams in the ball games gold medals based on the required number of starters for each sport. Thus, 11 golds were given in football, nine in softball and baseball, six in volleyball and five in basketball.

Davao blanked Northern Mindanao, 3-0, for the football title and secured 11 golds. The Davao scorers were Sylvester Sarco, John Lloyd Antonio and Aaron Bantayan.

Nine more golds boosted Davao's overall output in girls' softball as it crushed Central

DAVAO/ A26

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Hohmann trips Bata

Django subdues Strickland

By Dennis Eroa

GERMANY'S Thorsten Hohmann, the reigning World Pool champion, drubbed Filipino idol Efren "Bata" Reyes, 7-4, and moved closer to a semifinal berth in the On Cue II on Studio 23: Battle of Champions yesterday at the Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

But Francisco "Django" Bustamante made up for Reyes' setback as he mastered Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, 7-3, to boost his bid for one of two semifinal slots reserved for the Philippines in this much-awaited event organized by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Puyat Sports.

Strickland, a five-time US Open champion, used borrowed cue sticks after his entire luggage was lost in transit from Atlanta.

Also arriving without his cue sticks was Johnny Archer, but he repulsed the challenge of Venancio Tanio, 7-4, for a 1-0 record.

Bustamante, thus, improved his record to 2-1. The multititled Bustamante, a native of Tarlac now based in Kiel, Germany, lost to Hohmann, 4-7, but beat Mika Immonen, 7-4, last Tuesday.

Hohmann, a 24-year-old native of Fulda, Germany, played flawlessly as he mesmerized Reyes with near-perfect shotmaking throughout to improve his record to 3-1.

A former member of the German army, Hohmann started his campaign in this four-day Masters tournament by beating Bustamante, 7-4, and up-and-coming Tanio, 7-4, last Tuesday.

However, the music-loving Hohmann bowed to Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan, 7-6. It was sweet revenge for Pagulayan, who lost to Hohmann in this year's World Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

Against Reyes, Hohmann lived up to his nickname "The Hitman." Hitting the perfect angles and flashing a superior breaking game, the German pride roared to an early 6-2 lead in the race-to-7 alternate break format.

Reyes, who just arrived from Warsaw, Poland, where he also lost to Hohmann in the semis of the World Pool League, rallied to within 4-6, but the cool and calculating German took the 11th rack with ease.

BATA Reyes in action. PDI PHOTO

RP back in chess map

GRANDMASTER candidate Mark Paragua edged Filipino grandmaster Bong Villamayor as RP No. 2 in the world ranking released yesterday by the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

It was the first time in three months that the country was included in the list after the National Chess Federation of the Philippines settled its annual dues with FIDE.

The 19-year old former chess prodigy vaulted ahead of Villamayor with an ELO of 2511. Villamayor had a 2477 ELO.

Bangkok Open champion GM Joey Antonio remained the country's No. 1 with his 2522 ELO. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

IBC pulls out . . .

From page A25

"How can we operate *kung hindi kami binabayaran* (if we are not being paid)? We can't survive like that," said a high-ranking IBC-13 official of the station's abrupt move to stop airing the games.

The source said NBN-4, through its financial arm, Summit Sports Corporation, had issued 12 post-dated checks worth P2.5 million each to take care of IBC-13's airtime dues.

NBN-4 won the TV rights this year mainly through its proposal for simultaneous coverage with IBC-13 but ran into problems after both stations failed to lure big sponsors to support the games.

In the other game, Terrence Shannon exploded for 34 points and 20 rebounds as FedEx beat Alaska, 104-99, to join Sta. Lucia Realty and San Miguel Beer into the quarterfinals. The Express closed their elimination-round stint with five wins and eight losses while the Aces dropped to 4-8.

Burrell sank the go-ahead free throw with a minute left, 85-84, and triggered several defensive stops that halted the Tigers' six-game winning streak.

The Tigers wrapped up their elimination round campaign by absorbing a second setback in 13 outings to the Barakos, who remained unbeaten in games for a 10-2 record.

In the one-on-one competition, Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text dumped Shell's Tony Dela Cruz, 28-8, to barge into the finals.

Scores:

RED BULL 89—Burrell 18, Tugade 16, Harp 13, Miller 11, Pennissi 9, Villanueva 8, Baguio 4, Torion 4, Robinson 2, Se 2, Valenzuela 2, Asaytono 0.

COCA-COLA 84—McClary 16, Cariaso 16, Hatfield 12, Walnwright 9, Eavis 9, Hugnatan 7, Morano 5, Julnio 4, Avenido 3, Abarrientos 3.

Quarters: 18-17, 44-42, 67-65, 89-84

Fabregas, Ramos win

CARLOS Fabregas copped overall honors with a 76 even as little AR Ramos stole the show by shooting a 59 in the recent 2nd TJGL Open at the north course of Canlubang.

Fabregas, playing in Class C, submitted the lowest gross among those who teed off from the regular tees while Ramos, a division winner in the US Kids World tourney in Florida last August, beat his opponents from the special tees.

Miguel Tabuena, another standout of the RP campaign in the US, bagged his second straight crown by winning boys Class D of the tourney presented by CityGolf and organized by The Junior Golfers Leagues in cooperation with the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

In the girls division, Remijin Camping and Geleen Handog both scored 80s in topping Class A and B, respectively, with Cyna Rodriguez (Class C), Sun Mi Hwang (Class D) and Felicia Medalla (Class E) taking the other titles.

Completing the boys winners were IG Gutierrez in Class A, Miko Yee who beat defending overall champion Mikee Camitoc by three in Class B and Anthony See in Class C.

TJGL president Rey Capinianes and organizing committee head Raul Lachica handed out the prizes to the winners.

The Beatles of Japan

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN you hear Beethoven's Fur Elise and you don't get carried away, I guess you are abnormal. That piece is all you need to lift up your soul when things go awry. Sometimes, we count from 1 to 10 to calm us down. Fur Elise is all but only 3 minutes and 14 seconds, which is more than enough to lift that beleaguered soul to heavenly bliss.

Now get this. How about Roll Over Beethoven by The Beatles?

You are not only abnormal if you can't appreciate that. You must be crazy. A jerk.

I heard that song again, rendered live only a while back. By a group calling itself The Silver Beats, which performs nightly at The Cavern in the boisterous Roppongi district of Tokyo. I heard that done while in the company of distinguished ladies like Aida Sevilla Mendoza and Jenny Bleza, and celebrity-gentlemen like James Deakin, Ardie Lopez, Nandy Lucero, Anjo Perez, Deo Macalma, Dong Magsajo, Popong Andolong, and Toyota's Ariel de Jesus, and certified Beatlemaniacs Ding Marcelo, Vernon B. Sarne, Vince Socco and Danny Isla. I tell you these dolls and guys couldn't believe their ears, if not their eyes, while watching The Silver Beats perform. They were almost one in saying as if they were watching The Beatles perform live all over again. The Silver Beats are Japan's version of the Mop Tops.

Said Nandy: "They can really do Beatle stuff. I am amazed."

Said Ardie: "Thanks, Al, for bringing us here."

Said Ariel: "I might yet drop FYC for The Beatles when I get home."

And James: "Al, listen up. Now I know why you've come to this place four nights already."

Danny I, the time-tested sparkplug behind Toyota's aggressive marketing thrusts, shares that record with me. Don't be surprised, though. Like me, Danny I adores The Beatles like Vernon and Vince. In fact for years now, the four of us have been a-cooking with this idea of putting up our own pub; we're going to call it The Pub Four. All music will be by The Beatles. Our choice of names for the band, which will perform not just seven but eight days a week at the club, include Boys, Help, Wait and Girl. Rain is out as there's already a group by that name that plays regularly in Reno, Nevada. Danny I has seen Rain perform live and each time he speaks about the group, he oozes with admiration.

"No other Beatle act can beat the Rain," said Danny I.

Every Beatle fan knows about The Cavern. One can't fake about being a Beatlemaniac. He'll be unmasked so easily by a Fab Four fanatic.

Roppongi's The Cavern is a replica of that smoke-filled, cavernous pub in Liverpool, England, with the same name. It was at The Cavern that The Beatles had their early beginning. In short, Beatlemania, that sixties era that changed the face of rock and roll forever, was born there.

OK we jog, bike or brisk-walk to keep body and heart fit.

But we need also to jog our memory if only to keep those faculties constantly alert, if not to make the mind lucid and heart healthy always. So here's some more nostalgia, if not trivia, about The Beatles.

George Harrison, the lead guitarist of The Beatles who succumbed to cancer in November 2001, did the vocals of Roll Over Beethoven. It was one of Harrison's early hits while he was still known as The Quiet Beatle at the height of Beatlemania in the '60s.

The Silver Beats are too faithful to The Beatles that you can't find even the smallest deviation from a Beatle sound when they perform. The credit goes to Rujin "Ricky" Hrota. Ricky, 52, who sports the unsinkable Beatle hairdo like the four members of The Silver Beats, assembled the group only six months ago.

"It took me quite some time to find the exact sound that all the four Beatles made to change the world of music," said Ricky. "Even their appearances mattered much to me that's why look at our version of John Lennon. Doesn't he look exactly like John Lennon?"

To tell you frankly, fellas, Eric Hidemasu Mabuchi of The Silver Beats is a photocopy of John Lennon. Put him alongside Julian Lennon and Sean Ono Lennon and I bet you, you'll say all three are brothers sired by John Lennon.

And you know what? Eric Hidemasu Mabuchi sings, moves and strums that guitar like John Lennon. More of Eric and his three pals soon—for, as George Harrison said, tomorrow never knows.

Do I hear Vernon say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah!"?

Davao rules Palaro

From page A25

Luzon, 11-0.

NM consoled itself by producing the most outstanding athletes in the secondary level.

Comely swimmer and 14-year-old Monique Bacolod, who won six gold medals in the 200m individual medley, 100m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 200m freestyle and two relays (200m and 400m medley) was the runaway choice in the girls' division.

Haroon Cali, 16, was the top boys' athlete after his victories in the 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly and in two relays (400m and 4x50 medley).

In secondary athletics, Johnson Lacandale of Central Luzon captured the most medals after ruling the 100m, 200m and 400m. Aileen Tolentino of NM shone in the girls side with victories in the 800m, 1,500m and 3,000m.

FinalMedal Tally Secondary	G	S	B
Davao	43	39	24
C. Luzon	36	9	20
N. Mindanao	35	39	29
Zamboanga	15	33	22
C. Mindanao	15	16	20
Rizal	12	14	21
Caraga	8	8	30
Cordillera	4	5	6
E. Visayas	6	8	13
Cagayan	0	0	2
Ilocos	0	0	0
Calabarzon	0	0	0
Mimamorpa	0	0	0
C. Visayas	0	0	0

Organizers led by Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo expressed delight over the conduct of the Games despite pre-game apprehensions by several regions over Lanao del Norte's peace and order situation.

"I think we have proven not only our hospitality but also our capability to provide security to all delegates in the Palaro," said Dimaporo, whose province is also bidding to co-host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Falcons clinch crown

ADAMSON humbled Far Eastern University, 79-70, yesterday to rule the Unigames basketball championship at the Palaruang La Salle in De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

Ramil Tagupa fired 23 points to lead the Falcons. Kenneth Bono added 14, while Jojo Hate and Mark Abadia chipped in 11 each.

Jay Sierra topscored for the Tamaraws with 14 markers, while Jeff Chan and Don Yabut had 13 each.

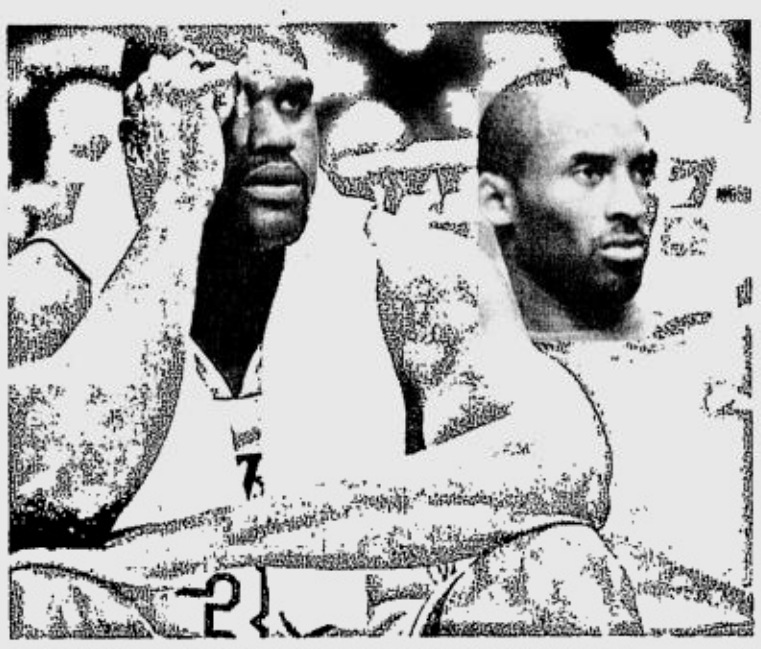
The Falcons reached the final by downing St. Benilde, 74-68, while the Tamaraws advanced after whipping Assumption University, 94-79.

"I am just really happy. I am thankful to the boys for letting me coach them," said winning coach Luigi Trillo, who bagged his first title as a coach.

Badminton Executive Cup slated

THE FIRST Nesvita Executive Cup badminton tournament get under way Nov. 15-16 and 22-23 at the Powersmash along Pasong Tamo in Makati City. For more details, contact Zita R. Alido of Glossy E-Vents at 0917-7961365 or e-mail glossyevents2003@yahoo.com. Backing the meet are Sportshouse, Accel, Wave 89.1, PLDT, Dimsum and Dumplings, McDonalds, Man-Hann, Dencio's and Nestea.

Kobe-Shaq rift rocks Lakerland



O'NEAL (left) and Bryant watch the game from the bench. AP

Phil fines Bryant

EL SEGUNDO, California—Just a few hours before the start of the regular season, all was not well in Lakerland.

Coach Phil Jackson fined Kobe Bryant an undisclosed amount for his highly critical comments of teammate Shaquille O'Neal, and the team met for 20 minutes to discuss a rift between two superstars that has escalated into a full-blown feud.

"There were no signs or indications that it would snowball the way it has in a matter of 36 hours, so we'll see what happens from here," teammate Derek Fisher said Tuesday.

Bryant was listed as doubtful for the opener against the Dallas Mavericks after he said he didn't think his surgically repaired knee was strong enough to withstand the rigors of a 48-minute game. The Lakers expected him to play until hearing otherwise Monday.

The other thing hurting Bryant was his feelings, and it appears there's no easy way for the Lakers to soothe them.

Bryant castigated O'Neal during a telephone interview with ESPN, calling him "childlike," "unprofessional," "selfish," "fat" and "jealous." He also accused him of overstating the severity of his foot injury last season when he reported to training camp overweight.

Bryant's comments came a day after O'Neal said the Lakers were "my team," adding that Bryant needed to be more of a team player—an observation based on two exhibition games.

At practice Monday, Jackson ordered the team not to discuss the dust-up with reporters. He fined Bryant for defying that order by talking to ESPN later that day.

"We felt we had an agreement yesterday and he didn't uphold that," Jackson said. "I think this is something we've asked our players to work out on their own and in private if they have personality conflicts."

The conflict between O'Neal and Bryant has been simmering throughout their seven seasons together. *AP*

MALONE shoots over the Dallas Mavericks' Antoine Walker. AP

Payton, Malone give LA big lift

LOS ANGELES—The new-look Los Angeles Lakers didn't need Kobe Bryant to do what they always do against the Dallas Mavericks.

With Gary Payton leading the fast break and Karl Malone providing plenty of everything, the Lakers put aside their squabbles and defeated Dallas at home for the 26th consecutive time—109-93 in the NBA opener Tuesday night.

Payton had 21 points and nine assists, and Malone added 15 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists to barely miss the fourth triple-double of his career. Both received standing ovations when they left in the fourth quarter, with Bryant among those lavishing the two newcomers with applause.

Shaquille O'Neal, Derek Fisher and Devean George—three of the holdovers from last season's Lakers—each added 16 points.

Bryant, engaged in a public feud with O'Neal, sat out because of soreness in his surgically repaired knee and did not join his teammates on the bench until the end of the third quarter.

In San Antonio, Anthony Carter's layup off an offensive rebound with 28 seconds remaining gave San Antonio the lead for good, as the Spurs hung on through three missed shots by Phoenix to beat the Suns, 83-82, in the season opener for both teams.

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 26 points and 11 assists, and Kenny Thomas added 15 points as Philadelphia beat Miami, 89-74, to give coach Randy Ayers a win on his debut. *AP*

RACING

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Witch Craft 2. Half Moon Princess 3. Ginger Spice
Race 2--1. Skip Away 2. Magnanimous 3. Native Talent 4. Lord of the Ring 5. Remarkable 6. Sham Sham
Race 3--1. Going Free 2. L'Islet Sur Mer 3. El Duque
Race 4--1. Time Specialist 2. Portal Dancer 3. Silver Print 4. Come In Glory
Race 5--1. Real Gem 2. Little Sam 3. Royal Magic 4. Virgin Atlantic
Race 6--1. Storm Princess 2. Shotgun Banjo 3. Meal Ticket
Race 7--1. Penthouse 2. Alessandra 3. Top Most 4. Secret Quest/Wine and Roses 5. War Epic
Race 8--1. Pana-Panahon 2. Night Flight 3. Kantayok 4. Bambino
Race 9--1. Firenze Rose 2. Day and Night 3. Schumacher 4. Diplomatic Bull 5. Everybodyhappy 6. Silver Place

SPORTSWATCH

RP cagers leave today

THE VIETNAM SEA Games-bound 17-man Philippine national women's basketball delegation leaves today for China for a series of Friendship Games as their final tuneup series for the Dec. 3-15 Games in Ho Chi Min City. Graham C. Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, will act as delegation head. Lim will be assisted by Daniel Lopez, BAP administrative officer. BAP President Quintilliano Literal has begged off and is coordinating preparations for the SEA Games men's defending team champion. Team captain is Emelia Vega. Other team members are Minerva Narcisa, Estellita Enriquez, Shella Esteban, Ma. Susan Bambico, Cherrlyn Lubiano, Marites Gadian, Ana Marie Jaleco, Marsha Faustino, Joan Grajales, Sylvia Valencia and Matilde Carreon.

Tough Truck meet

MONSTER trucks and veteran off-roaders with huge appetites for adventure take center stage anew when Caltex Delo Sports presents the 3rd Tough Truck Challenge on Nov. 28-30 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Organized by the Manila Offroaders Inc. (MORI), the 4x4 festival will feature the country's top drivers aboard their good-looking and tough performing sports utility vehicles and 4x4 trucks. "We've carved a niche in the history of 4x4 racing. And we're committed to bringing one of the most prestigious and anticipated 4x4 competitions in the country today," said Brian Diaz, president of the organizing MORI. Keeping the event in order will be Rep. Rimpy Bondoc, event race director. Defending champion is Noel Bartolome of Team Delo. Ramon To-ong, treasurer of MORI, said that an added attraction to the 4x4 extravaganza is the " Stocks on the Rocks," a special side show on Nov. 29 and 30.

Aduyan in 3rd round

ARJAY Aduyan downed Jamy Regino, 15-17, 15-6, 15-12, and ER Sario tripped Michael Cammayo, 15-11, 4-15, 15-13, yesterday to reach the third round of the boys' 18-under division in the Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle Greenhills gym. Aduyan will next play Rhaul Angeles, who scored a 15-1, 15-1 win over Jaime Vihoro, while Sario will face Pierre Arden Pantig, who won by default over Mark Christian Arellano. Other winners were Ace Jefferson Paraiso over Christian Cabael, 15-5, 15-3, Ralph Mancenido over JC Mendoza, 15-7, 15-3, Michael Paclibar over Mark Cammayo, 15-0, 15-2, Robert Altamirano over Erick Pagadua, 15-7, 15-1, Ericden Dionisio over Ralph de Jesus, 15-1, 15-0 and Marlon Villarin over Romnick Gatus, 15-4, 15-0.

NBL resumes Nov. 5

THE PANASONIC National Basketball League Regional Conference will resume on Nov. 5 with the Ilocos Sur Snipers gunning for win No. 2 against the debuting Grachiya Adamson Falcons at the Adamson gym in Malate, Manila. The Snipers, who held off Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo 7 Lakers, 80-72, last Oct. 24 at the Florante Aquino Stadium, are expected to have their hands full against Coach Luigi Trillo's Falcons in the lone 3 p.m. contest. Panasonic NBL Cup action then shifts to the new Cebu Coliseum on Nov. 8 and 9.

Gabito . . . From page A25

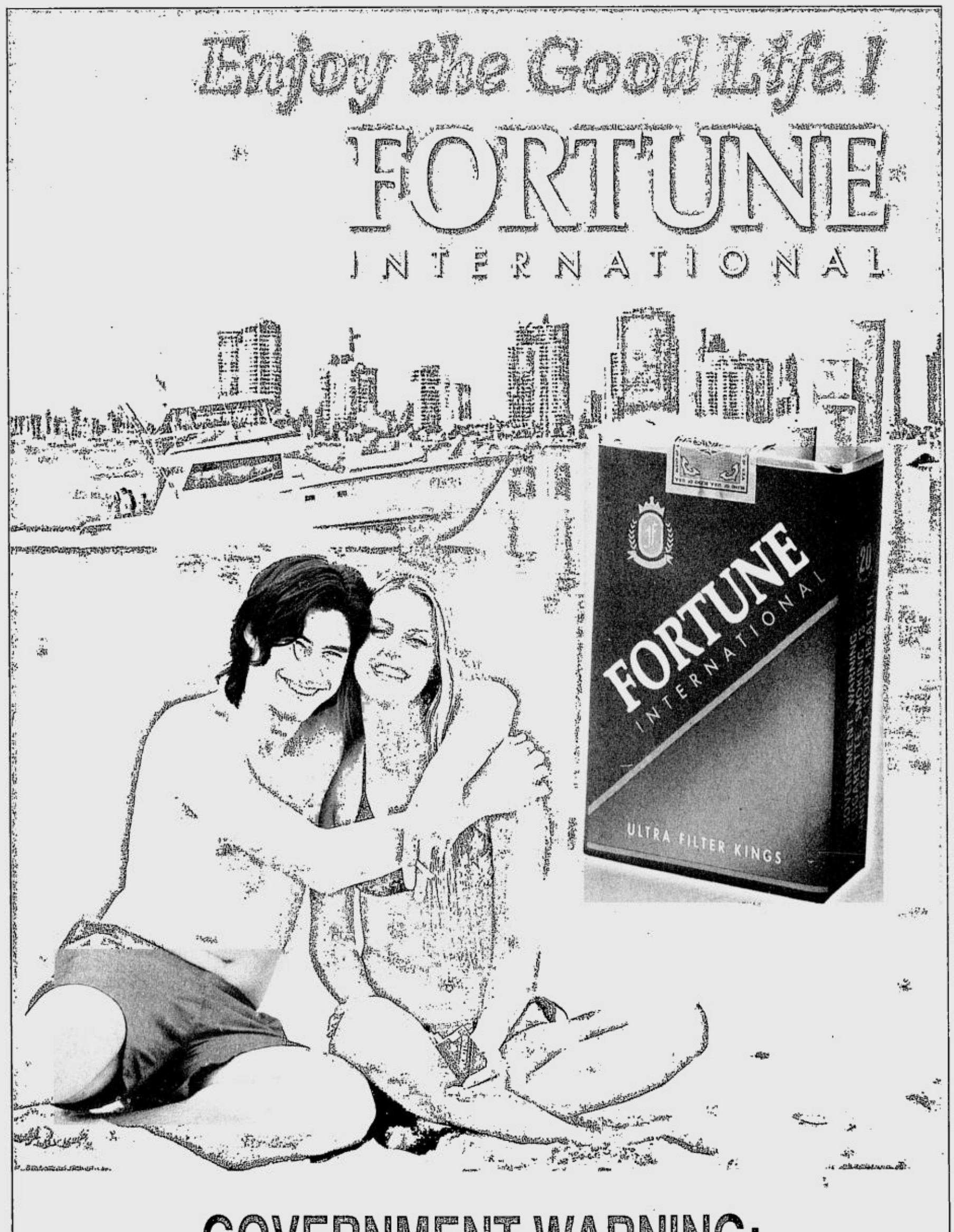
Philippines president Manny Lopez. Tañamor, Payla and Laguna are seeking final slots Wednesday.

In tennis, the Filipinos also held sway with victories in the mixed doubles that assured them of at least bronze medals.

Johnny Arcilla and Patricia Santos beat Nigeria's Rotimi Jegede and Osara Amadon, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, while Adelo Abadia and Czarina Mae Arevalo trounced Sunday Maku and Udofa Clara, 7-6, 6-4, also from Nigeria.

Arevalo, who combined with Santos for the bronze in the women's team event earlier, will be gunning for the silver medal in the women's singles Wednesday.

"I know one of them (Lerma, Marestella) would deliver," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok.



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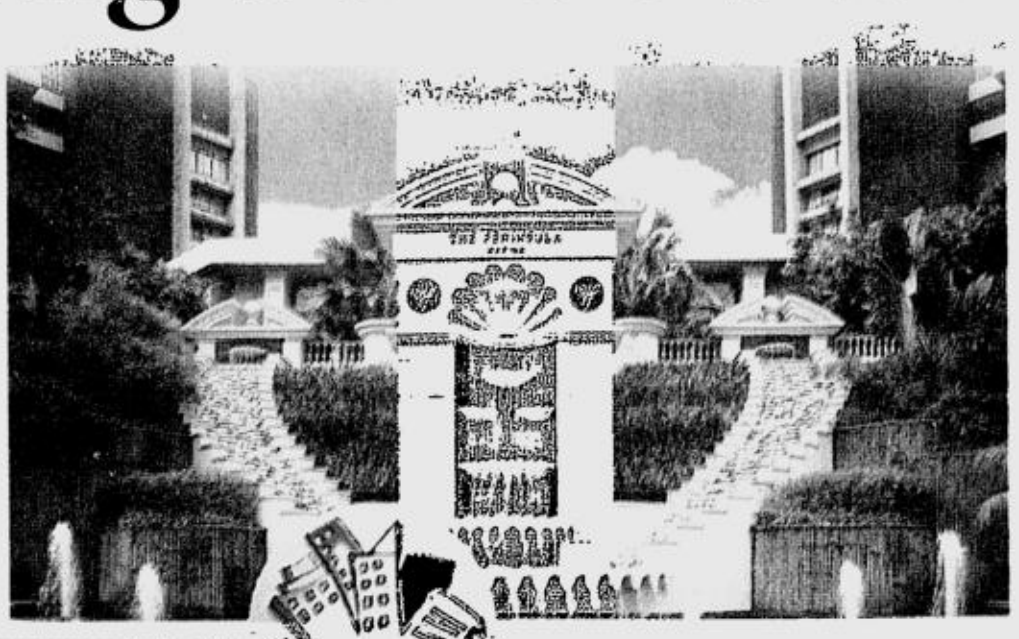
Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design
Aries Espinosa, Editor

Travel mag readers vote Manila Pen among world's best

The hotel is famous for its lovely rooms, warm and gracious Filipino hospitality and spectacular lobby



THE PENINSULA Manila has been voted No. 64 Overall for Best Hotel in the World and No. 9 for Best Hotel in Asia (the only one in the Philippines) in the annual Top 100 "The Best in the World" list of premiere American travel magazine Condé Nast Traveler's 16th Annual Readers' Choice Awards (November 2003 issue).

"Everyone at The Peninsula Manila is extremely proud to have won these awards. We are delighted by the ranking given to us by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler, as it is valuable recognition of our efforts to provide the best hotel experience possible for our guests. This is likewise an added boon to the Philippine tourism industry," said David Batchelor, general manager of The Peninsula Manila.

An interesting highlight of these awards is the fact that The Peninsula Manila bagged a much-coveted 100-percent score for service.

Four other The Peninsula Hotels luxury properties—The Peninsula Bangkok, The Peninsula Hong Kong, The Peninsula Chicago and The Peninsula Beverly Hills —were awarded top honors from the readers of Condé Nast Traveler.

The Peninsula Bangkok was chosen as the number one hotel in all of Asia by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler. The Peninsula Hong Kong, The Peninsula Hotels' flagship property, was voted number two in the Top Ten Asian Hotels.

The Peninsula Hotels' newest property, The Peninsula Chicago, ranked third in the Top Fifteen North American Hotels by the magazine's readers, and The Peninsula Beverly Hills ranked fifth in the same category.

The Peninsula Manila is an elegant and calm oasis at the heart of the bustling business district of Makati City. The hotel is famous for its lovely rooms, warm and gracious Filipino hospitality and spectacular lobby. Award-winning cuisine is served in the restaurants, and the hotel also has one of the best bars in Manila.

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ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA BAY INDUCTION AT ASTORIA PLAZA
The officers and directors of the Rotary Club of Manila Bay for Rotary Year 2003-2004 were recently inducted by District 3810 Governor Alex Y. Huang at Astoria Plaza's posh Manhattan Room.

Large, live seafood at their freshest at Tin Hau

SAVOUR the sea's delectable harvest in its finest form at Tin Hau's Live Seafood Cuisine from Nov. 3 to 16. Literally breathing life into Tin Hau's daily offerings are king crabs, big tiger and spotted garoupas, giant someis, green lobsters, double skin and king crabs, big clams, and many more of the sea's bounty in culinary creations sure to leave an indelible mark in one's gastronomic memory. For this rare food festival, executive Chinese chef Andy Chan and his team have prepared a number of exquisite dishes that will surely tickle the fancy of avid gastronomes.

After diners take their pick from the day's harvest, Chef Andy transforms them into vibrant and exquisite dishes that show off their marvelously clear and exciting flavors. Live big garoupas, whether spotted or the tiger kind, are served three ways —sauteed fillet, steamed fish head and breast, and as soup with vegetables. Live king male crabs are stir-fried or steamed with fried garlic, baked with ginger and spring onion, or baked in spicy sauce "Thai style"; double skin crabs are steamed with Chinese rice wine, or steamed and served with chili sauce. Tiger garoupas are simply steamed with soya sauce served with black bean sauce or bean crumb sauce.

"Besides the sheer excitement and novelty of it, eating fresh, live seafood has numerous health benefits. For one it is closest to its natural form so most of its nutrients have been preserved, unlike those which are frozen or which have been harvested through chemical procedures where a lot of nutrients are sacrificed," says Zion Chung, manager of Tin Hau.

At lunch or dinner, diners at Mandarin Oriental's premier Chinese restaurant will revel in this two-week promotion as seafood takes center stage. For reservations and inquiries, call 750-8888 extension 2422.

FilBarcelo: Moving higher, taking you further

STARTING Nov. 3, FilBarcelo Hotels and Properties Management Corp will have a new corporate home in Makati City. The move is in line with the company's commitment to serve its valued and increasing clientele better and provide them with only the very best from its growing family of resorts and hotels, namely The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort in Samal Island, Barceló Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center in Iloilo City; Barceló Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa, Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City, Barceló Eagle Point Resort, Club Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Batangas.

The new corporate office is at the 27th Floor, Trident Tower, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For assistance on your business and leisure requirements, call 867-1159, 867-1185 (fax) or visit www.barcelo-asia.com.

Barceló Hotels and Resorts, as guided by Philippine Law, has become a domestic company since October 2002 under the name of FilBarcelo Hotels and Properties Management Corp, in which some of the leading businessmen and companies of the country have become shareholders. It has chosen to specialize in the hospitality industry and offer a friendly atmosphere and exceptional experiences. They manage properties of enduring value and support them with a deeply instilled sense of personal service. It aims to be recognized as the company that manages hotels, resorts and resort clubs, with the common philosophy of providing "Only the Best for Guests," wherever they locate.

The most generous buffet at The Bellevue Hotel

THE NEWEST dining destination south of Metro Manila has again improved its mouth-watering lunch buffet. The Bellevue Hotel's main dining area, the Café d' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant, offers the Carving Cravings lunch buffet for only P320+.

Carving Cravings has been a hit with businessmen and lunching ladies in the Alabang area. The terrific lunch deal includes tasty soup, a variety of salads and cold cuts, pasta with different flavorful sauces, luscious carving and lip-smacking desserts. There are more choices for distinctive diners who avail themselves of the promo. Apart from hot items added to the menu, an assortment of Japanese sushi is sure to tempt palates.

Dining at The Bellevue Hotel satisfies not only the taste and the budget, it is also a perfect place for relaxation. Cool earth tones are complemented by teakwood chairs. Flowering plants, a lovely fountain and ancient Chinese artifacts are also on display.

With its flavorful and inventive cuisine, more and more people flock to The Bellevue for power lunches and social meetings. The hotel also represents the best business hotels can offer—elegance, efficient service, friendly staff, convenient location, superb food, modern amenities and exciting activities—at affordable prices. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

The look and touch of City Travel Hotel

STRATEGICALLY located at the heart of Baguio's central business district—just behind the historical landmark, Burnham Park-The City Travel Hotel has 32 elegantly designed, fully carpeted and spacious rooms and suites designed to make guests feel at home with its comfort and style.

Each room is installed with an electronic dial-lock system, state-of-the-art technology ensuring safety and privacy for the guest, colored cable television, as well as hot and cold shower with bathtub. The windows also showcase the city's ample panoramic scenes day and night.

Special amenities include the Executive Boardroom that can accommodate 30 to 40 people, perfect for seminars and corporate meetings. The Auracaria Hall with a 250-seating capacity is excellent for weddings, baptisms and other special occasions. The health club has modern gym equipment for health buffs to enjoy.

Promo rates are P1,440 (standard room), P1,680 (deluxe room), P2,100 (junior family suite), P2,700 (executive suite), P2,940 (family suite) and P3,600 (presidential suite). Rates may vary during holidays and peak seasons.

Here at City Travel Hotel, service is where the heart is and it all starts with a warm smile. For reservations, bookings and inquiries, get in touch through (074) 445-0456, (074) 447-0480 to 82 or fax (074) 445-0457. They are located at #15 Kisad Road, Baguio City.

People, Events & Products

1322 in a class by itself

SURPASSING the quality of most homes in the market today is 1322 Roxas Boulevard, Manila the tallest residential building in the country. To satisfy the tastes and needs of the elite class, the best design consultants planned and designed each home with the theme of sophisticated simplicity. Each of the 324 homes in 1322 offers a majestic view of Manila Bay from the living/dining rooms and the bedrooms, (in select units, even from the master's bathroom, just beside the whirlpool.

Each home in 1322 is ready to move into, all inclusive of the basics and the luxuries of a dream home. The floors of the main rooms are done in narra parquet while the kitchen has ceramic floor tiles. The homes come complete with expensive packaged-typed air conditioning units in the living/dining rooms and bedrooms, built-in storage cabinets and walk-in closets, modular kitchen cabinets with granite countertops, kitchen range hoods, bathtubs with whirlpool, 24-hour hot and cold water, vanity counters and dressers with mirrors, framed glass shower enclosures, incandescent lights and pin lights for accents and floor-to-ceiling glass walls providing the dramatic view of the bay.

Stars all set for 'MTV Music Summit'

THE COUNTDOWN has begun for the "MTV Music Summit for AIDS," a musical extravaganza which will feature local film stars, TV stars, youth icons and MTV VJs.

The "MTV Music Summit for AIDS" will be held at The Fort grounds, on Friday, Nov. 21, 2003.

Mandy Moore, the pop icon behind such hits as "Cry," "Crush," and "Only Hope," and who starred in last year's megahit movie, "A Walk to Remember," has agreed to perform in the concert, according to MTV Philippines.

Some of the celebrities also expected to perform are Parokya ni Edgar, Luke Mejares, Cheese, Moonstar 88, Kapatid, Kamikazee, Mongols, Karylle, Andrew E., and many more. Those who have confirmed their attendance to show their support for the cause are Robin Padilla, Patricia Javier, Geneva Cruz, Dawn Zulueta, Iliac Diaz, Robin da Roza, Jessa Zaragoza, Josh Santana, Wesley Gonzalez, Mac Cardona, Josef Yeo, Jeff Rodriguez, and many more.

"MTV Music Summit" is presented by Frenzy, The Party Condoms, Smart Music Link, Music Matters, UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, in association with Penshoppe and Chips Ahoy, and supported by the Department of Health and Shell, and with the participation of Equitable Card, Philippine Star, Smart Buddy Load and SMB Play.

MTV will air the special on Dec. 1, 2003 on UHF 41.

MTV Philippines' Francis Lumen says, "We at MTV are determined to unleash the power of the brand so that young people will sit up and listen, to use our relationship with the media to drive proactive messaging, and to influence opinion leaders and government. While we are not experts on HIV/AIDS, we pride ourselves in our ability to reach out to and influence young people. We intend to use MTV's marketing and media muscle to create awareness about HIV/AIDS, remove the stigma and help in the prevention of the spread of the disease."

Dr. Zahidul A. Huque, chair of the UN theme group on HIV/AIDS says, "UNAIDS is deeply concerned about the pervasive complacency towards the current low incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Philippines. HIV/AIDS epidemics have occurred in several neighboring countries. Recently, Indonesia and Australia have seen sharp increases in HIV/AIDS cases. All evidence suggest that a similar increase in the Philippines is only a matter of time if we fail to act now.

"We are excited to work with MTV to reach millions of young Filipinos with life-saving information through the Music Summit," he added.

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NOW SHOWING

Lea-Robert wedding guests told to 'bring dancing shoes'

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

WHEN Lea Salonga flew out of Manila last Sunday night to return to Los Angeles, she made sure she had already distributed her wedding invitations to guests from Manila.

It's only two and a half months to go before her Jan. 10 altar date with Robert Chien, her Asian-American boyfriend.

"All the big stuff in the wedding has been pretty taken care of," Lea said. "We already have the reception venue, the wedding bands and the gowns of the bridal entourage. So we are now attending to the small details."

The invite, in the elegant cranberry red wedding motif, was designed and made by Lehr and Black, a boutique in L.A. which specializes in custom-designed wedding invitations. The invite doesn't carry the list of principal sponsors. It simply says the date and time of the wedding, with a footnote: "Merrymaking to follow. Bring your dancing shoes."

Invitations have been sent out to 250 people from different parts of the world, according to Lea. A small card inserted in the invite's left flap says the entree is a choice of sea bass or filet mignon, and requests the guests to give their choice when they call to confirm their attendance before Dec. 10.

For regrets, a card in the right flap carries the name of the contact person in Manila—DJ Francisco, the girlfriend of Lea's younger brother Gerard.

DJ, a violinist with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), is also one of the bridesmaids.

Lea left last Sunday with her mom, Ligaya Salonga, who will help her attend to the final preparations for the wedding. Lea is also getting help from her New York friends—Victor Lirio and Yvette Fernandez, who is also the maid of honor.

Lea said she wants a very intimate and simple wedding ceremony, "not just Filipino but very Asian," with traditional and non-traditional elements.

Lea and Robert will exchange marriage vows on Jan. 10, 2004 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in L.A. Lea will wear a gown by California-based designer Monique Lhuillier, who has created gowns for American stars such as Jennifer Lopez, Sharon Stone, Angelina Jolie, Janet Jackson, Meg Ryan, Halle Berry and Mariah Carey.

Lea's wedding gown will be "simple, off-white, with a ball-gown skirt." The bridal entourage will wear gowns by Letlet Veloso, while Lea's mom will wear a Rajo Laurel. All the gowns will have a lining because of the very cold winter chill in L.A. in January.

The tuxedoes of the men in the entourage will have Chinese collars, Lea added.

Lea and Robert met in L.A. in November 2001, while she was doing "Flower Drum Song" at the Mark Taper Forum, right beside the L.A. Cathedral.

They were introduced to each other by Robert's cousin, Christine Yasunaga, who was part of the ensemble in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

Robert is an executive at Provicint, a provider of high-tech customer contact services.

The wedding will be aired as a TV special on ABS-CBN two weeks after the actual date and will include a feature on the day Robert proposed to Lea, as well as the bridal shower and the stag party in Las Vegas.

The couple's friends and family members will be interviewed for the TV special, to be directed by Bobby Garcia.

The wedding giveaway is Lea's CD recording of "Two Words," an original composition especially written for the wedding, with lyrics by Freddie Santos and music by Louie Ocampo. Lea sang it in her "Songs from Home" concert at the PICC last September.

The CD giveaway is from BMG Records Pilipinas, Lea's long-time record label.

Sunflowers on Boracay

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S almost the 40th day since my mom went ahead to her appointment with God. In the vernacular, it's called "*babang luksa*" (loosely translated, that means "an end to grieving").

But is there ever really an end to mourning the loss of someone who brought you into this world? It somehow feels like I have no business to exist any longer now that the source of my flesh and blood and the center of my heart and soul is gone? But as I look at my brother Ricky, sister Clara, my kids, nephews and nieces, I suddenly realize that my mom still wants me to carry on for their sake. Knowing her, she will be holding the remote control from Up Above as she directs my steps to look after our brood.

That's exactly how I felt when we took a much-needed breather in Boracay. Up to the last minute there were still so many hitches, but instead of panicking I could not help but smile because it reminded me of how my mom would always come through for all of us at the 11th hour. And our Boracay trip was no exception. By divine intervention and mom's intercession, everything just fell into place.

As I was boarding the plane, my mind went into flashback mode. I remembered the countless times I travelled with my mom and how the other passengers would sneer at us because my mom had this funny habit of showing up late. Not that she wanted to make a dramatic entrance. She just had this thing for last-minute stuff. There was even a time we had to run as if we were in the Olympics because the plane's door was already about to close. Once, we even missed our flight!

Ironically, my mom had been to various parts of the world but she never got a chance to go to Boracay, although she has always wanted to do so. No doubt she is with us every single minute of our stay on the Paradise Island. Ricky, Clara and I were constantly assured of our mom's presence because sunflower (her favorite!) items kept coming into view from out of the blue. Every shop or restaurant we entered had something with a sunflower design on it. Even on the beach there was a woman wearing a *sarong* with sunflower prints.

And the ultimate sign was the huge sunflower etched on the sand by the creative kids of Boracay, a few steps from the Pearl of the Pacific (where we stayed, courtesy of *muy gracioso* Louie Cruz whom we cannot thank enough).

The trip also served as an advanced debut gift to Clara. I know that if my mom had one last request to God, it would be that she would be allowed to extend her life so she would be around when Clara turns 18 on Nov. 6. Even if she's no longer here physically for Clara's 18-candle ceremony, Ma now has the power to grant Clara's 18 birthday wishes, and more.

Every time I'm with Clara, I sense a whisper in my heart and I know it's my mom telling me what to do. Watching Clara grow up, I see in her the best of Mom and an improved version of me. Although I have been living on my own for almost four years now, it's only now that I really, really feel how my mom felt as she singlehandedly raised me.

It's quite tough being an ATM (automated teller mommy), but the rewards are well worth it. The Boracay holiday is more than money well spent. It was time well spent with the family.

As Louie Cruz aptly put it, "Watching the sunset and gazing at the trillion of stars on Boracay is proof that our moms are happy where they are. And the best part of it is that they see us wherever we are and they have an extra-big smile seeing us happy."

With that thought in mind, I know there will come a time when I can remember minus the pain. And all that would be left is the beauty of all the memories. Now, more than ever, I truly believe that there is love—even after death.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Bon Jovi's greatest hits, acoustic style

UNIVERSAL Music Philippines is set to release Bon Jovi's latest album, "This Left Feels Right."

The CD is a collection of Bon Jovi's greatest hits, all entirely re-crafted.

Each song was deconstructed, stripped down to its core elements and rebuilt into an entirely new acoustic version.

Among the tracks are "Wanted Dead or Alive," "Livin' on a Prayer," "Bad Medicine," "It's My Life," "Lay Your Hands on Me," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Bed of Roses," "Everyday," "Born to be My Baby," "Keep the Faith," "I'll Be There for You" and "Always."

Bon Jovi will be filming their twice-in-a-lifetime performances of these tracks at two shows next month in Atlantic City.

These performances will be released on DVD by next year.

Unusual circus acts on 'Extreme Variety'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

It's a grab-bag of the best variety acts onstage

FOR some months now, we have occasionally been viewing a variety show on SkyCable Channel 24 (AXN Action TV) that has impressed us with its imaginative acts and great performers. Last Saturday night, we finally decided to improve on the happenstance nature of our patronage of the show, and focus more clearly on its obviously exceptional merits.

Here's the lowdown:

The program is titled "Extreme Variety," and is telecast every Saturday at 9 p.m. on AXN. It's a grab-bag of the best variety acts onstage, culled from the showrooms of clubs, casinos, theaters and circuses all over the world.

"Extreme Variety" lives up to its title, because the performers it features have a penchant for pushing the envelope when it comes to daring, dexterity, wit and imagination.

Last Saturday, for instance, the program featured a juggler who worked, not with the usual balls or tenpins, but with chainsaws! He could have been injured really badly if he'd made a slip, but was so good at juggling that he remained unscathed.

We've all heard of performing dogs, but last Saturday's telecast of "Extreme Variety" pulled a surprise when it featured a troupe of performing-*cats*! That was a tough act to pull off, because cats generally have a mind of their own, but the troupe's trainer was able to motivate his frisky felines to obey his instructions to the letter, and perform circus acrobatics with utter discipline.

Not that the performing dogs were left out in the cold and standing in line for unemployment benefits: One canine was given several spot features that showed him running around—on just his front legs!

Other unusual acts:

A man chomping merrily away on a light bulb. He confided that, in the course of his unusual career, he'd eaten some 3,000 bulbs, and wryly sighed that perhaps it was time for him to get a *real* job!

A man who shot arrows at an apple. Pretty conventional, right? This time, however, *he* was the one who shot an arrow perched on his own head! Now, that takes both expert marksmanship and gumption.

In another act, this modern-day William Tell shot five arrows at a black sheet of cloth. It turned out that, behind that cloth was a woman. Since he was shooting at her sight unseen, he could have injured her if his aim wasn't as good as it was.

Three beautifully-muscled acrobats going fluidly from one "impossible" pose to another, all the while lifting each other in slow motion, flouting the law of gravity at every turn. Their act was visually elegant and artistic, as they created human pieces of "sculpture" with their bodies.

A singer who upstaged his own musical performance with his comically prehensile nose, which was going every which way as he sang.

"Twin" acrobats from Asia who went into all sorts of keenly coordinated contortions with the help of some metal barrels.

A woman doing a hula-hoop dance—with the hoops aflame.

As the agile performers did their acts, the viewers at our home kept exclaiming, "How'd they do that?!" Figure it out for yourself when you catch "Extreme Variety" next Saturday night.

'Maalaala Mo Kaya'

A little girl's valiant efforts to rise above her handicaps illuminate the Oct. 30 episode of Channel 2's "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

The episode tells the inspiring story of young Fatima Soriano, who suffered from both a severe eye defect that leaves her nearly unable to see and renal failure at just 10 years of age.

Fatima's struggle to live a normal life is dramatized by ace director Joyce Bernal, who directs from a script by Gilbeys Sardeja. Moreen Guese plays Fatima, while Snooky Serna and Albert Martinez are cast as her parents.

'McKnight with the Stars'

Singer-songwriter Brian McKnight performs at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 5 and 6. His shows' repertoire features his hit songs—"The Way Love Goes," "6-8-12," "One Last Cry," "Back at One," "Love Is," "Anytime," and "You Should be Mine."

McKnight is also marking his 10th year as hitmaker with the album, "From There to Here." His Araneta Coliseum shows will also feature Sarah Geronimo and Bituin Escalante. Call 911-555.

'Let's Dance for the Lord'

The Bukas Loob sa Diyos Catholic Covenant Community is presenting a retro dance concert, "Let's Dance for the Lord," on Nov. 8 at Le Pavillon, Metropolitan Park, Pasay City.

Performing is Spirit of '67, with the front act featuring Viva Entertainment's young talents. Proceeds will go to the construction of the BLD Retreat Center, BLD mission outreach and the Hospicio de San Jose. Call 655-6888.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MY FIRST ROMANCE
B	MAPUPULANG LABI
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City · Tel. No: 8981440-41 · DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE RUNDOWN PG13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	UPTOWN GIRLS PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	THE SPY PG13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30
MY FIRST ROMANCE GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	IDENTITY R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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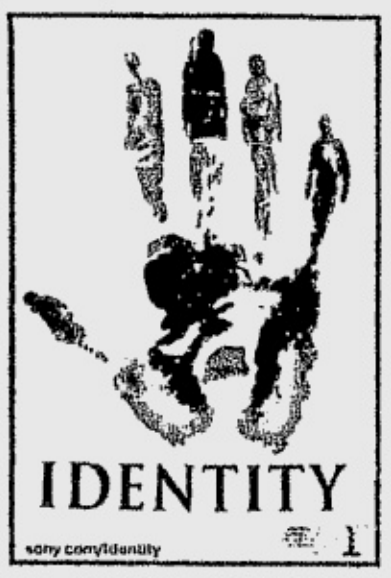

Special Halloween Presentation!

A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

From the producer of the SCREAM movies, comes IDENTITY, a smart, mind-bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	MAPUPULANG LABI
Ali 3	THE SPY
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	IDENTITY
Ali 6	UPTOWN GIRL
Ali 7	MY FIRST TOMANCE

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV 2	PBA: SHELL VS. PUREFOODS
NOV 9	PBA GAMES
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

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Malate 'Black Nights'

CLUBBER'S Guide in Malate presents "Black Nights," a Halloween dance party tonight and tomorrow.

DJ Benjo Durado, a.k.a. Soul Shaker, and DJ Gillette Yaneza will heat up the house with urban music.

Clubber's Guide also has a drink-all-you-can promo from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., for only P200. Clubber's guide is at 610 Julio Nakpil St., Malate. For reservation, call 450-1592.

Ciarra's name forbidden in John Lloyd-Bea promo

By Marinel R. Cruz

ABS-CBN management instructed its writers not to mention in any of its publications the name of actress Ciarra Sotto—John Lloyd Cruz's real-life girlfriend—in any write-up promoting the young actor's love team with Bea Alonzo.

This, according to a source, was to ensure that the focus would be on the John Lloyd-Bea love team, which was first seen on television in the now defunct teleseries "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" and is now on the big screen in Star Cinema's "My First Romance."

John Lloyd and Ciarra have been going out together for more than a year now. Last June, persistent rumors said Ciarra attempted suicide by taking an overdose of sleeping pills because John Lloyd wanted to break up with her to protect his movie love team with Bea.

Both John Lloyd and Ciarra denied this. Ciara claimed she simply must have taken more sleeping pills than usual and that the show biz press had blown up the incident out of proportion.

"Ciarra is a very understanding girlfriend to John Lloyd," Bea told INQUIRER Entertainment. "She knows that this is all part of the job."

Bea plays Bianca opposite John Lloyd's Enzo in their first movie team-up. The other pair in the movie is made up of John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

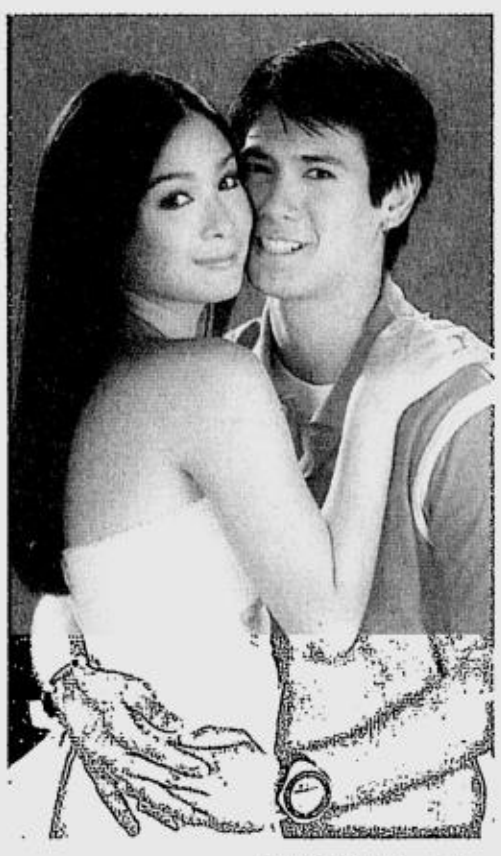
"If ever they fight because of the love team, John Lloyd never makes me feel I am responsible for it," Bea told a group of writers.

She said she first met Ciarra when the latter, daughter of Sen. Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa, visited John Lloyd on the set of "Kay Tagal." She and Ciarra chatted over coffee with a group of friends during a taping break.

"She's very nice," said Bea of Ciarra. "We're really not that close, but we send each other text messages once in while."

In "My First Romance," John and Heart star in the episode titled "One Love," directed by John-D Lazatin.

John Lloyd and Bea are in "Two Hearts," directed by Don Cuaresma. John Lloyd plays a soccer star player who had to go to the United States to undergo a heart transplant. Bea's character is still recovering from the loss of her boyfriend (Dominic Ochoa), who decided to migrate to the United States where he died in a car accident. "John Lloyd is the more experienced actor," said Bea. "He helped me a lot by giving me acting tips."



BEA says John Lloyd is a good boyfriend to Ciarra, with whom she sometimes exchanges text messages.

Bea's role in "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" as law student Katrina was unexpectedly well received by viewers. The role also earned her a nomination for best actress in a TV drama from the Philippine Movie Press Club, pitting her against veterans Lorna Tolentino, Cherri Pie Picache and Cherrie Gil.

"Maybe our love team came at a time when people were looking for a fresh pair," said Bea.

Bea—real name, Phylbert Angellie Ranollo—is half British and Filipino. She grew up in Taguig and now lives with her mom, stepfather and two siblings in Taytay, Rizal.

Her mom, Mary Anne Ranollo, broke up with her British boyfriend—Bea's dad—when Bea was only 4 years old. Bea has not seen her father since.

"I no longer look for my real dad," said Bea. I'm done with that chapter of my life. "Talking about that chapter only brings back sad memories of my childhood. I have a lot of good things going on in my life right now."

Bea turned 16 last Oct. 24. Unlike other kids her age, she would rather stay at home, cook or work on her computer. She is now a high school junior under the Department of Education's home study system. She plans to take up tourism in college.

Bea regrets not being able to go to a normal school because of her busy show biz schedule. "My work is really, really tiring," she stated. "It also gets boring sometimes. But I love what I do. Not everyone gets this kind of break in show biz."

THE OTHER pair in the two-episode romance is made up of John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

SHOW TIME

SIZEMORE

FLEISS

'Black Hawk Down' star sent to jail for beating Heidi Fleiss

LOS ANGELES—Millionaire US movie star Tom Sizemore was Monday sentenced to six months' jail for beating and threatening notorious Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss.

Sizemore, 48, the star of such hit movies as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Black Hawk Down," was convicted in August of committing domestic violence on his former girlfriend Fleiss.

But Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Antonio Barreto stayed Sizemore's sentence pending a Jan. 30 hearing at which his jail term may be cut in half.

Barreto also placed Sizemore on three years' probation, ordered him to undergo domestic violence and anger-management counseling and to pay $1,200 in fines.

The actor also entered a no-contest plea to another charge of battery involving a different woman. The judge sentenced him to probation and a $100 fine on the charge.

The actor did not speak during the sentencing, which was attended by Sizemore's Hollywood bad-boy pal Charlie Sheen, but presented a letter to the court in which he apologized for his actions.

Sizemore was convicted in August after a high-profile trial in which Fleiss was the star witness, but sentencing was postponed to allow the actor to complete treatment for what his lawyer Michael Fitzgerald described as a "substance abuse problem."

The actor was convicted of a range of charges, including causing bodily injury to Fleiss, making criminal threats and obscene and harassing phone calls to her, and vandalism. He remains free on $100,000 bail.

Fleiss, 37, hit international headlines when officials tried to force her to reveal her "black book" of prostitution clients, who included Hollywood powerplayers and stars, following her arrest in an undercover sting operation in 1995.

She left prison in 1998 after serving 20 months of a 37-month term for conspiracy, money laundering, tax evasion and attempted pandering.

During Sizemore's trial, she testified tearfully to being battered by her ex-boyfriend.

In one alleged incident in November of 2001, she claimed Sizemore beat her after she told shock jock Howard Stern during a national radio interview that she did not think much of his latest movie.

The brunette daughter of a well-to-do Los Angeles physician said she did not call police because she was on federal parole.

After the verdict, she said she "loved (Sizemore) and I was very good to him and what he did to me was wrong. I want to pretend I never met him:" *AFP*

Edu Manzano, 48, and his son **Luis**, 22, see each other only once a week—when they host ABS-CBN's Sunday show, "Asap Mania." Edu says they are now of the same build and height so that they can swap clothes. He says Luis sometimes borrows his suits and other formal wear. The dad is relieved that the son is finally graduating in December, with a degree in hotel and restaurant management, from De La Salle's College of St. Benilde. Edu himself is a product of De La Salle University.

DID YOU KNOW...

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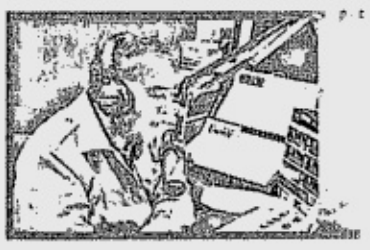

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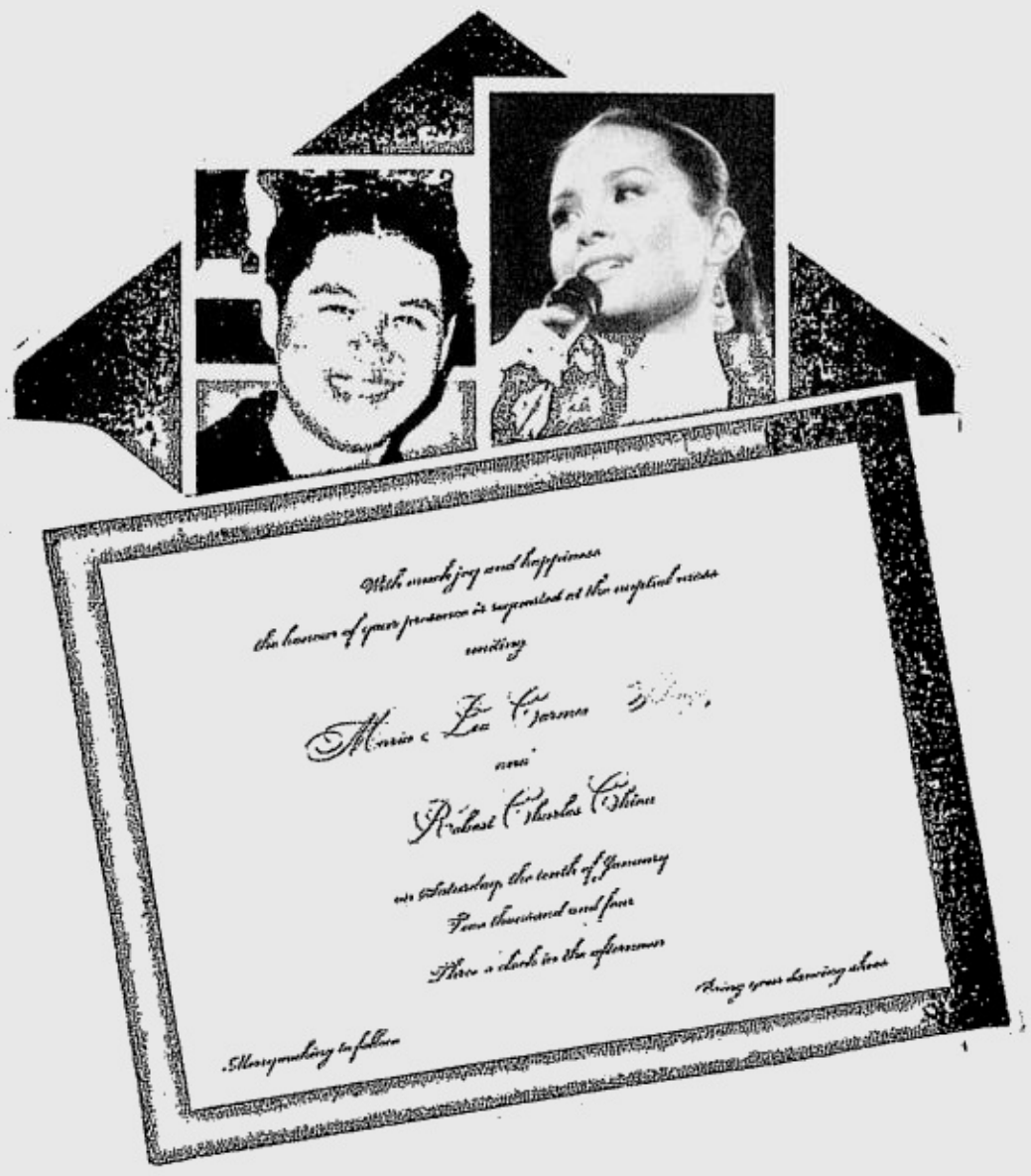
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



Lea-Robert wedding guests told to 'bring dancing shoes' /A30

Halloween amidst the green.

Greenbelt's Rock and Royalty
Halloween Ball 2003
by Tim Yap

Be part of the Rock and Royalty Halloween Ball on October 31 at Greenbelt 3.

Party with the kings, queens, knights and dragons at the third level of Greenbelt 3 from 9 p.m. onwards. Enjoy free drinks till midnight at participating Greenbelt 3, 3rd level bars and restaurants while mingling with stilt-walkers, court jesters and moving statues. Entrance is free but you have wear a costume or you can't enter the castle.

Johnnie Walker
gentxt

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Gov't debt stock up 17% to ₱3.16T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S outstanding debt as of August swelled by 17.2 percent to P3.158 trillion from P2.695 trillion in the same period last year due to the massive borrowings of the Macapagal administration in previous months.

Department of Finance data showed that on a month-on-month basis, however, the level of debt in August was only slightly higher than the P3.14 trillion in July.

As early as July, the government has already exceeded its P3.058-trillion debt stock projection for the whole year.

The obligations of the national government accounted for about 60 percent of the country's total debt stock of P5.163 trillion last year.

The government's debt in August excluded the P668.74 billion in contingent liabilities, representing the amount of guarantee extended by the state to loans of government agencies and private borrowers.

However, contingent liabilities may become actual debts of the state if the covered agencies or companies will fail to pay their obligations.

The level of contingent liabilities has increased substantially this year.

During the eight-month period, debts that carried sovereign guarantees rose 22.3 percent from P546.7 billion a year ago.

Domestic borrowings grew by P248.67 billion or 17.7 percent to P1.657 trillion in August against P1.408 trillion a year ago and by P9.18 billion or 0.6 percent from P1.647 trillion in the previous month.

As of August, the foreign debt component also increased by P213.9 billion or 16.6 percent year-on-year to P1.501 trillion ($27.32 billion) from P1.287 trillion last year and by P8.083 billion or 0.5 percent from P1.493 trillion a month ago.

A weaker peso in August, averaging at 54.95 to $1 compared with 51.8 to $1 a year ago, further bloated the level of the government's external obligations.

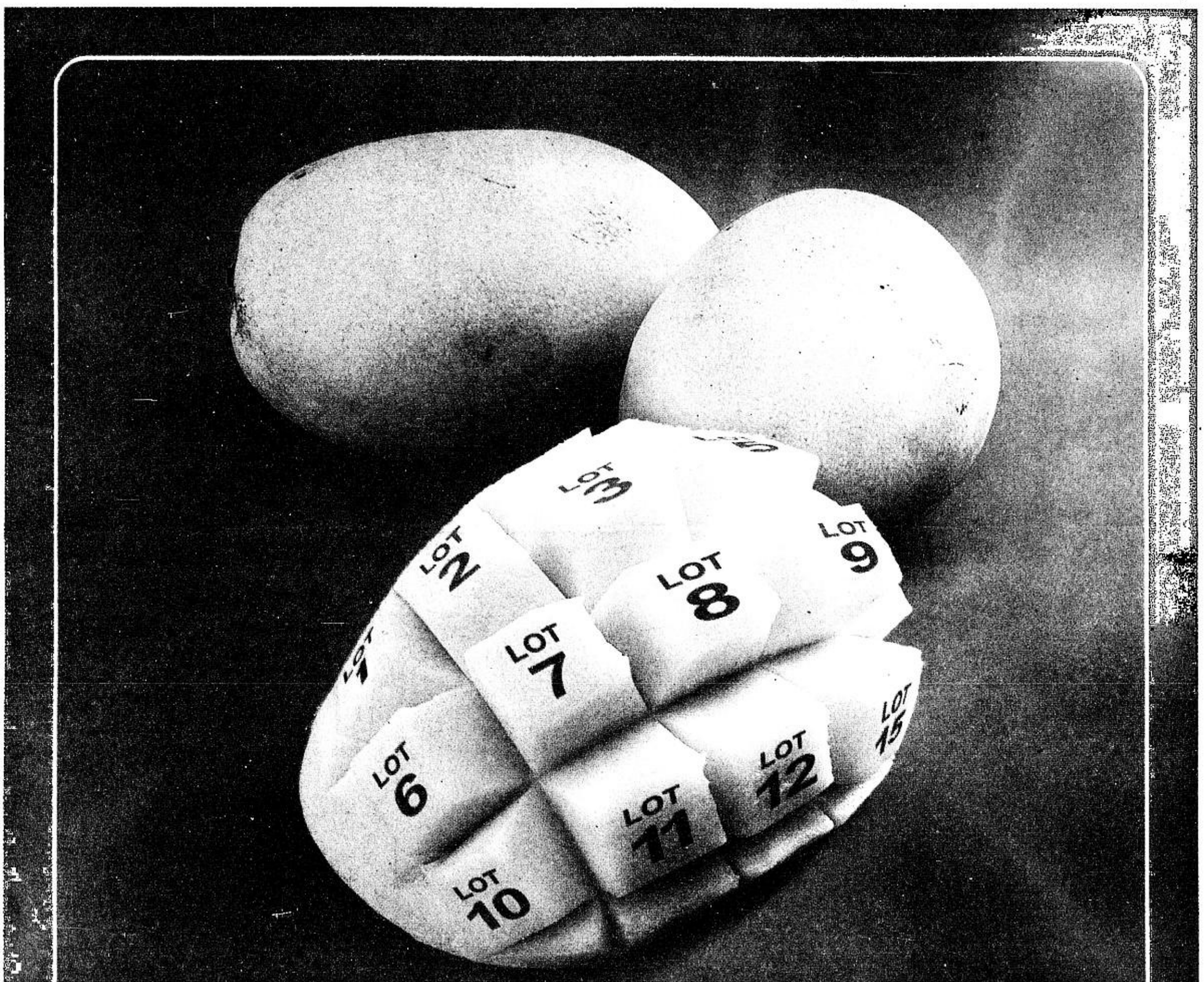
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the consolidated outstanding debt of the government was expected to swell to about P7 trillion in the next five to seven years before the government could start bringing it down to a more manageable level.

He stressed, however, that the country was not in the brink of a debt crisis because almost 90 percent of the country's obligations were to mature in more than five years and only 10 percent were fall due in a year.

"The total debt stock could go up but we also expect the economy to perform better. Once we generate enough surplus, we will be able to start bringing down the debt level substantially," said the finance chief.

The country's rising public debt was one of the factors that influenced the decision of Stan-

GOV'T/ B3



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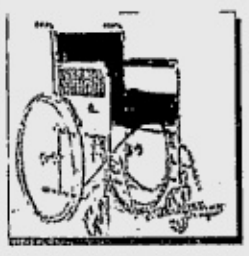
IMPRESSIVE Q3 PROFIT

Meralco seen hitting 2003 sales growth target

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR



• Fixed armrests
• Frame coated in dark blue color
• 8"/24" solid wheels

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Flr. (45) 636-3513

SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471

COMFORT WHEELCHAIR

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36 | SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418 75-40 | SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262-32-39 | SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-15-65 | ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co., the largest power retailer in the Philippines, on Wednesday revised its sales growth target for 2003 to an annual 4.3 percent from 3.2 percent.

"It's just really the strength in the third quarter. It seems to be sustainable," Treasurer Rafael Andrada told reporters.

Meralco said on Monday its third-quarter profit doubled from the same period of 2002, helped by its first rate hike in nine years.

The utility, which supplies electricity to four million households and businesses in and around Manila, earned P574 million in July to September, compared with P281.93 million a year earlier.

Meralco said its sales volume rose 5.1 percent to 17.744 million kilowatt hours in the first nine months from 16.886 million a year earlier. For the third quarter, sales volume rose an annual 3.8 percent.

Meralco, however, reported a 14.67 percent decline in its cash balance for the first six months, from P7.87 billion to P6.72 billion, due mainly to its refund to customers.

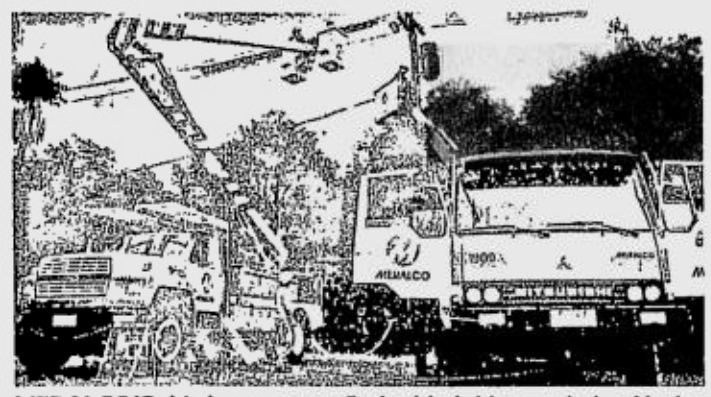
"Our cash balance is expected to deteriorate further by December and the next few years when Meralco shells out even bigger amounts for the refund," Meralco chief finance officer Tagaza said.

Meralco's financial report for the third quarter showed a payout of P1.72 billion to cover the first phase of its refund.

The refund covered customers that used up to 100 kilowatt-hours in April 2003.

Meralco is in its second phase of the refund, which would cost the company some P4.6 billion. Phase 3 will kick off in January next year, costing P4.9 billion and the final phase will cost P18.6 billion in customer claims.

Meralco shelled out P15.44 billion in cash during the first nine months, including P7.16 billion in debt payments, P4.77 billion in capital expenditures and P1.62 billion in systems loss.



MERALCO'S third quarter profit doubled this year, helped by its first rate hike in nine years.

Systems loss expenses refer to the cost of electricity that is lost through technical faults in Meralco's distribution system and pilferage, which is beyond that cap that it is allowed to recover from its customers. *With a report from Reuters*

Play will never be the same for the children of war-torn Mindanao. Unless you play your part. Give an hour's worth of your earnings to Children's Hour. Your donation will help provide them with food, shelter, medicine, education and psychosocial rehabilitation. And hopefully, even the childhood they've lost.

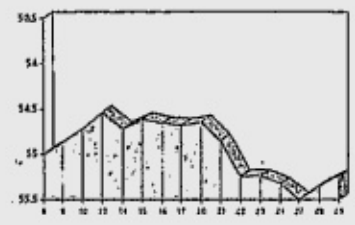
Contact Children's Hour: 10/F BPI Bldg, 6768 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City; Telephone: 894-1663/Telefax: 893-2236; or visit www.childrenshour.org.ph. Adspace courtesy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

children's hour
Every hour is time well spent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.24 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, 2003

¥ 108.04 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, 2003

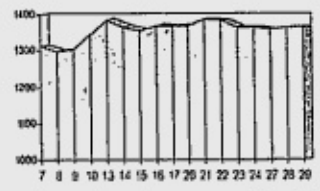
GOLD: $381.80-382.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 29, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks end higher; SM Prime leads

STOCKS ended slightly higher on Wednesday, led by shopping mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., but trading remained thin amid caution over political tensions.

The main index rose 1.78 points or 0.13 percent to 1,364.82 points. It is up 34 percent this year.

"Bargain-hunting carried over from yesterday's trade," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

Turnover of P495.8 million was higher than Tuesday's P378.12 million but still relatively light.

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 23 to 13 and there were 50 stocks unchanged.

SM Prime, controlled by Chinese-Filipino businessman Henry Sy, gained on reports it had launched its 15th mall and was due to open two more towards the end of the year.

SM Prime, up 1.45 percent or 10 centavos at P7, was the only stock in the most active list that ended higher.

"We expect the market to maintain its positive bias, although gains are likely to be limited owing to concerns over current political issues," Yap said.

Lawmakers allied with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo have won more time to seek a compromise over the potential ouster of the nation's top judge, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

The row has raised fears of political instability ahead of next May's election.

Leaders of the House of Representatives adjourned the lower chamber on Tuesday, two days earlier than scheduled, effectively blocking a move by more than a third of the lawmakers to send impeachment charges against Davide to the Senate. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

October 29, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 29-Oct-03	MART1 28-Oct-03
1 Month	6.3967	6.3732
3 Months	6.4429	6.4019
6 Months	7.5643	7.5519
1 Year	8.3857	8.3308
2 Years	8.9308	8.9196
3 Years	9.6917	9.5607
4 Years	10.1767	10.1161
5 Years	10.46	10.4196
7 Years	11.1233	11.0679
10 Years	11.295	11.2179
20 Years	11.7161	11.6696
25 Years	12.11	12.0821

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PNB to issue notes worth $140M

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's sixth largest bank, yesterday said it would issue up to $140 million in subordinated notes next month to meet the required 10-percent minimum capital adequacy ratio set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNB said the indicative yield of the planned tier two debt issue, which should have a tenor of 10 years, ranged from 9 percent to 9.5 percent.

The universal bank, equally controlled by the government and the group of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, has tapped JP Morgan Securities Ltd. as the sole arranger and bookbuilder of the issue.

The notes will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

If the notes issue pushes through next month, PNB would be the fourth among the large local banks to raise tier two capital through a subordinated debt issue this year.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. all issued subordinated notes to boost their capital base.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that the issuance of subordinated notes qualifying as tier two capital would encourage the banks to sell their non-performing assets even at a loss as the additional capital would provide enough room to write off some of the bad assets.

PNB has around P75 billion in non-performing assets, consisting of real and other property owned or acquired and non-performing loans. The bank plans to sell part of the assets to a special purpose vehicle that would qualify for tax incentives.

Its NPL ratio at the parent level stood at 50 percent of its total loan portfolio as of Sept. 19, which meant that one out of two borrowers fell behind on their debt payments.

PNB last week announced that it swung to a net profit of P127 million in the first nine months of this year from a net loss of P1.52 billion in the same period last year. *With a report from Reuters*

Gov't . . .

From page B1

dard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings to downgrade their outlook on Philippine borrowings.

In 2004, the government will have to settle P542.2 billion in debt, up P116.5 billion or 27.4 percent from the debt servicing requirement this year of P425.7 billion.

Interest payments next year were placed at P271.5 billion in 2004, 17.7 percent more than this year's P230.7 billion. Principal payments next year will be higher by 38.8 percent or P75.7 billion at P270.7 billion, from this year's P195 billion in 2003.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 29, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	11,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44.5	44	44.5	146,300
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	74,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	116,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.74	0.7	.71	3,150,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27	80,600
Philippine National Bank	27	27	27	27	45,600
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,700
Security Bank Corp.	17	17	17	17	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	27.5	28	12,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1610	1610	60
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1320	1335	1320	1335	3,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	32,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	775	765	775	94,310
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	.045	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	1,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.77	.8	9,940,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	750	755	725	725	132,600
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	260,000
Vivant Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	.8	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	10,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	125,800
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	20.25	20.25	1,045,900
Petron Corp.	2	2.04	2	2	383,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	220,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	276,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	250,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3	3.1	3	3.1	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	.36	590,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.9	0.93	0.9	.93	640,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	704,500
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	55.5	56.5	126,000
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62	62.5	231,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	.34	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.9	2,252,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,049,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	.029	1,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	.007	45,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.57	6,360,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	.14	1,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.5	0 17.	5 17.	5 17.5	432,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	84,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2.04	2	2.04	51,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	.65	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1	6 1.0	8 1.0	6 1.06	1,662,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	.28	3,080,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0 .3	9 .3	7 .38	1,540,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0 .2	7 .2	7 .27	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0 .2	9 .2	9 .29	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	.065	1,100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	0 1	4 1	4 14	600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SER VICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0 .	6 .5	9 .6	1,430,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.28	00 .	28 .	28 .2	8 100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0 .3	4 .3	3 .33	570,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	0 2	8 2	8 28	88,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	0 10.	5 10.	5 10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	0 10.	5 10.	5 10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	0 10.	5 10.	5 10.5	1,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	50 10	.5 10	.5 10.	5 2,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	0 6.	5 6.	4 6.5	3,364,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0 .23	5 .2	3 .23	2,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0 .2	4 .2	4 .24	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	0 1.1	2 1.	1 1.12	5,912,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	0 2.	1 2.	1 2.1	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0 .1	8 .1	8 .18	300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0 .1	2 .1	2 .12	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	9,422,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0036	0.0034	.0036	8,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	.23	3,430,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.33	0.31	.33	11,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	32,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	500,000
OIl					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	25,000,000

CURRENCIES

October 29, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.857118	1.000000	55.463000
Japan	Yen	0.007921	0.009242	0.512600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454444	1.696900	94.115200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110489	0.128908	7.149600
Switzerland	Franc	0.643772	0.751089	41.657600
Canada	Dollar	0.654388	0.763475	42.344600
Singapore	Dollar	0.491129	0.573000	31.780300
Australia	Dollar	0.604286	0.705020	39.102500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.273644	2.652661	147.124500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228565	0.266667	14.790200
Brunei	Dollar	0.489726	0.571363	31.689500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000100	0.000117	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021466	0.025044	1.389000
UAE	Dirham	0.233394	0.272301	15.102600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.166700	64.708700
Argentina	Peso	0.301272	0.351494	19.494900
Brazil	REAL	0.300321	0.350385	19.433400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134564	0.156996	8.707500
India	Rupee	0.018954	0.022114	1.226500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225588	0.263193	14.597500
Mexico	New Peso	0.077518	0.090440	5.016100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523431	0.610687	33.870500
Norway	Kroner	0.121582	0.141850	7.867400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014958	0.017452	0.967900
South Africa	Rand	0.123860	0.144507	8.014800
Korea	Won	0.000722	0.000842	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.110436	0.128846	7.146200

DISCLOSURES

MARTIN Isidro was elected director of Philippine Trust Company.

* * *

MANULIFE Financial Corp. declared a cash dividend of Canadian $0.21 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 17 and will be payable on Dec. 19.

* * *

NEXTSTAGE Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 10 a.m. at the Hidalgo ABC Function Room of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of Oct. 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE TWO-YEAR lock-up period on the 10 billion shares of Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. issued to Jabel Corp and Discovery Mines Inc. expires today, Oct. 30.

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. disclosed that it has already taken corrective measures to address the spillage of caustic soda from its leased tank in Bauan, Batangas.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. appointed Unicapital Inc. as financial adviser and investment banker for the company's intended fund-raising. It will also serve as issue manager for the listing of the company's new shares and lead underwriter for its possible stock rights offering. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

MOTORUSH FOR CASH

TALK 'N TEXT

MOTOROLA T190 Promo Winners

LITO BACUS
17 Paroba St., Sto. Rosario, Mexico Pampanga
P50,000.00 Cash

P10,000.00 Cash
ISRAEL CESARIO
Ecumenical Chapel
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

P10,000.00 Cash
NEMESIO MEDINA
Ramon Herrera Apartment #3
Talisay, Batanga, Bataan

P10,000.00 Cash
DANDY PANDES
Smokey Mt. Reclamation Dev't. Proj.
Temporary Housing Tondo Manila

P10,000.00 Cash
DIA CUEVAS
8140 J.P. Rizal St.
Nangka Marikina City

P10,000.00 Cash
RODRIGO ARROCENA JR.
110 Rizal St., Cayaoan
Camiling, Tarlac

P10,000.00 Cash
STEPHANIE ANN ARRADAZA
Li-ong, Brgy. Alang-Alang
Mandaue City

P10,000.00 Cash
REBECCA TANGE
37 Buckingham Townhomes
BF Resort Vill., Las Piñas

P10,000.00 Cash
MARICAR OJERA
Poblacion Norte
Ivisan Capiz

P10,000.00 Cash
JENNY MAR ANTONIO
169 DSM Subd., Mambog
Bacoor, Cavite

P10,000.00 Cash
RHODORA REGNER
42 Lopez Jaena St.
Cebu City

P10,000.00 Cash
PEDRO SANAO JR.
44X Pariñas St.
Project 8, Quezon City

P10,000.00 Cash
BETTY AGUILAR
298 Palihan
Hermosa, Bataan

P10,000.00 Cash
MARITES R DE CASTRO
JP Laurel Highway
Lipa City, Batangas

P10,000.00 Cash
PREXIE SANZ CATAPANG
24 Ducadao St.
Dingle, Iloilo City

P10,000.00 Cash
EDGAR PRUNA
253 M. Dominguez St.
Mabatang, Abucay, Bataan

P10,000.00 Cash
SHERLITA FERNANDEZ
115 Milagrosa Ext. Alphine Alley,
Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City

P10,000.00 Cash
THERESA BANAS
920 Don Quijote St.
Sampaloc Manila

P10,000.00 Cash
FERDINAND C. LANTIN
245 Bugtong, Lipa City
Batangas

P10,000.00 Cash
TOMAS C. NIELES
698 Canilar St.
Zamboanga City

P10,000.00 Cash
EMMA RUTH FRANCISCO
PH4B B7 L5 Citihomes
Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

P10,000.00 Cash
ZENAH LEAL
Moonwalk Village
Las Piñas City

P10,000.00 Cash
ANTONIO AMARON
619 Dampol, Pulilan
Bulacan

P10,000.00 Cash
CLIFFORD ONGLUICO
Doña Rita Village
Talamban Cebu City

P10,000.00 Cash
VICTORIA DE VERA
101 Kayang St.
Baguio City

P10,000.00 Cash
JENNIFER CUNTAPAY
San Roque, Paombong
Bulacan

P10,000.00 Cash
UKALA M. PANDAO
302 Bus-Bus Jolo Sulu

P10,000.00 Cash
CORAZON RITARITA
East Bagong Bario
Caloocan City

P10,000.00 Cash
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Winning Sellers

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ADI Telecom, Lipa City
Partner Subscriber: Marites De Castro, Ferdinand Lantin

GLORIA GADDI
ADI Telecoms, Baguio
Partner Subscriber: Victoria De Vera

JEANETTE SANTIAGO
JDS Telecom Iloilo
Partner Subscriber: Prexie Sanz Catapang

CHERYL MONTEJO
Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe, Zamboanga
Partner Subscriber: Nurhima Taala

MARK RYAN MAGALLANES
SMART Wireless Center SM Southmall
Partner Subscriber: Emma Ruth Francisco

ROBERTO QUEROL, JR.
TSI SMART Bacoor
Partner Subscriber: Rebecca Tange

AMADOR ROSARIO
ADI Telecom Tarlac
Partner Subscriber: Rodrigo Arrocena, Jr.

JOVEL BUELLO
SMART Wireless Center Ayala
Partner Subscriber: Dandy Pandes

RUBI ROSE ANDRADA
Cellstar Gaisano
Partner Subscriber: Maricar Ojera

DIGNA JARQUIO
ADI Telecom SM North Edsa
Partner Subscriber: Corazon Ritarita, Sherlita Fernandez

JANE EBREO
SMART Center Balanga
Partner Subscriber: Edgar Pruna, Betty Aguilar

MICHELLE LEANO
ADI Telecom Pampanga
Partner Subscriber: Jennifer Cuntapay

CYRIL ROY PINEDA
SMART TSI SM North Edsa
Partner Subscriber: Antonio Amaron

CEDRIC NINTE
SMART Wireless Center SM Bacoor
Partner Subscriber: Jenny Mar Antonio

NENITA QUIJAS
Games & Gadgets, Cebu
Partner Subscriber: Stephanie Ann Arradaza

IMEE LUMBERIO
ADI Telecom, Angeles City
Partner Subscriber: Jaymee Dalina

JOVELYN COMINES
TSI SMART, SM North Edsa
Partner Subscriber: Pedro Sanao, Jr.

ISAIAS HEKIN
Pilipino Tele. Corp. Cebu
Partner Subscriber: Rhodora Regner

RODRIGO CORONEL
ADI Telecom, SM Pampanga
Partner Subscriber: Lito Bacus (monthly winner)

JOAN AREVALLO
ADI Telecom, Southmall
Partner Subscriber: Zenah Leal

ANA LIZA SILVA
Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe, Zamboanga
Partner Subscriber: Tomas Nieles

MECHANICS FOR CLAIMING PRIZES:

I. All winning customers may claim their prizes at any Smart Wireless Centers nearest to them. All winning sellers will receive their cheques from Innovisions, Inc. For further details, winning sellers may call up Innovisions, Inc. at (02) 813-8601.
II. To claim their prizes, the following must be presented:
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SELLER: Transmit copies of the following documents thru fax to Innovisions, Inc. (Fax: 816-6645): Valid ID (eg. Driver's License, Professional License, SSS ID, Passport, Company ID, School ID) • Letter of Authorization from his/her Dealer.
III. A representative of the winner may claim the prize upon presenting the aforementioned documents with the following: Representative's valid ID • Winner's ID (original or photocopy) • Authorized Letter from the Winner.
IV. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) calendar days from notification will be forfeited in favor of Motorola Communications Phils., Inc. with the prior approval of DTI.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.: 2433, SERIES OF 2003

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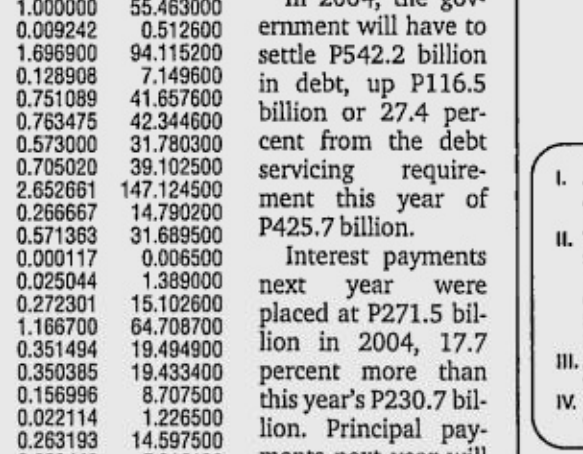

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3. The deadline for submission of entries will be on Dec. 15, 2003.
4. The Raffle draw will be held on Dec 16, 2003 at Brother International Philippines main office located at 11/f, Chatham House Condominium., VA Rufino cor., Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
5. Winners will be notified through registered mail and shall be announced in locatnewspapers of national circulation.
6. The prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. To claim their prize, winners must present two(2) valid ID (SSS, Drivers License, Passport, Company ID, School ID) and the winning Raffle Stub at Brother International Philippines main office located at 11/f, Chatham House Condominium., VA Rufino cor., Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
8. For GMA winners, they are required to get their prizes at the Brother International Philippines main office located at 11/f, Chatham House Condominium., VA Rufino cor., Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
9. For provincial winners, prizes will be delivered through courier by Brother International Philippines
10 All employees of Brother International Philippines and their preferred sales agents, its advertising agency and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.
11. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Brother International Philippines and with prior approval of the DTI.

Deadline for submission of entries: December 15, 2003

Raffle Draw: Dec. 16, 2003

PROMO PERIOD: Until Nov. 30, 2003

PER DTI-PERMIT NO. 3488, SERIES OF 2003

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses RODOLFO G. PEÑA and ESTELA A. PEÑA was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#112, Page#21, Book#111, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Ma. Girlene Alcantara of Bacoor, Cavite.
(PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

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Raoul Santiago
Finance Director
PepsiCo., Inc
Philippine Branch

(PDI – Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

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NOTICE OF MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger of IMI REALTY, INC., as the surviving corporation, and SALCEDO SUNVAR REALTY CORP., as the absorbed corporation, have been approved in meetings duly called for the purpose, by majority vote of the respective Board of Directors and by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock of the said corporations. The said Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission immediately after the required publication of this notice has been completed.

This announcement shall serve as notice to all interested parties of the legal effects of the aforesaid merger.

October 28, 2003.

Makati City, Metro Manila

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Corporate Secretary of
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(PDI–Oct. 30, Nov. 6 & 13, 2003)

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☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
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Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

In Loving Memory
On the 11th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIO

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory today, October 30, 2003 at:

Mary the Queen Church
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City ..... 6:00 P.M.
Sanctuario de San Jose
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City ..... 6:15 A.M.
Christ the King Church
Greenmeadows Ave., Quezon City ..... 6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C. ..... 7:00 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Church
Pasay Road, Makati City ..... 7:30 A.M.
St. Francis Church
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City ..... 6:00 P.M.
Center for Peace Asia
Lopez-Rizal St., Mandaluyong City ..... 12:15 P.M.

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

ATTY. BUENAVENTURA A. RIVERO
"TATAY ORENG"

of **Meycauayan, Bulacan**

Peacefully joined his Creator on Monday, 27th of October 2003 at the age of 100.

His beloved wife **AGRIFINA D. SORIANO** (†); children **ZENAIDA** (†), **ROSARIO** and **BEN**, **CONCHITA** (†) and **MON**, **CORAZON** (†) and **FERDIE**, **MILAGROS** and **MANENG**, **MANUEL** and **ANGIE**, and all his grandchildren, great grandchildren nephews and nieces, request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan in front of Meycauayan College.

Interment will take place on Sunday, November 2, 2003 at Meycauayan Memorial Park (Zamora) following the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Francis de Assisi Church of Meycauayan, Bulacan.

LINDA FUENTES POLOTAN

peacefully joined the Lord on October 27, 2003 at the age of 71.

Her bereaved children **Lisa, Lina, Lenore & Lourdes**, sons-in-law **Jess, David & Steve**; grandchildren **Talna, Karlo Jose, Justin, Miguel, Andres & David**; surviving brothers & sisters **Virginia, Edito, Azucena, Mae, Reynaldo, Carlos, Eduardo & Laurella**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish at Mahinhin cor. Mayumi Sts., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

A mass will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
Cremation will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2003, 5:00 p.m. at the Crematorium of Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

CEFERINO "PERING" LOPEZ VILLAREAL

(Retired Executive Judge, MTCC Legazpi City)
Peacefully joined his Creator on Tuesday, October 28, 2003 at the age of 78.

He is survived by his loving wife, **ROSIE ALCANTARA PABALAN**; children and spouses: **IRENE** & Yuhyn Basman, **WILMA** & Tony Nabong, **GENE** & Winnie Llanzana, **FR. JUN. JO** & Cesar Villanueva; grandchildren: Camille, Hyatt & Bev Tañeza-Sydney, Ireyah, Junjun, Saud, Fahd, Noni, Bern, Tommee, Carlo, Judge & Lovely Reyes-Jusmine, Juris, Joanne, Jonas, Judith, Jenny, Jean, Meg, Aureo, Ina, Jn and Kalaylah; sisters **Sr. M. Aida OSB, Elena Reyes** and **Lilia Gonzales.**

Interment will be on Friday, October 31, 2003 at the Guinobatan Catholic Cemetery, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Guinobatan, Albay.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Law Firm of Alampay Gatchalian Mawis & Alampay

condoles with the family of

ENGR. ROMAN D. MAWIS, SR.
(Hunter - ROTC)

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 28, 2003

His remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Interment will be today, October 30, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at the Holy Gardens Memorial, Taguig.

We extend our condolences to his family and loved ones and join the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

VICENTE PABLO S. HEPOMUCENO, DDM

who passed away on October 21, 2003

wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways were just there for us when we needed it most.

Message of Gratitude

We, the bereaved family of the late

REYNALDO ESCOBAR TUMANGAN, JR.

who joined his Creator on October 4, 2003.

His children **RABBINAL & MISAKO, VICTOREY & ZAIDEE, REYNALDO & CATHY, RINALDO & ZANTELLE, LOREN.** His mother **SOLEDAD**, brothers and sisters **ED & TESSIE, SOLMA & FRED** (†) **PATELO, JEMEN & ESTELA** (†), **LUMEN & ABE RAFANAN, GUILLER & LETTY, PANSER & MONETTE, JESUDADEL** (†), grandchildren, wish to convey our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation for the prayers, masses, flowers, kind words of sympathy and comfort, keeping vigil with us, and attending the funeral rites.

Your very kind expression of concern and sympathy during our moment of deep sorrow shall always be treasured.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Katakian, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3805; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinaluphan St., Manuguil, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Fisco, Quezon City; Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812983, 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Paleros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 695-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Paleros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level Unishoppe Complex
Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels 651-1711, 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1295, 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalinaya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Magallan Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels 283-1613, 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867; 714-0869
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426 Fax 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels 646-1725; 646-1730
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 427-8412; 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City;
Tel 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
436 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel Nos 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels 831-3797, 844-7845, 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel 302-5447
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668, 809-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

"For My yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:30

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 08
Series of 2003

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE MANDATORY ACCREDITATION OF REBUILDING CENTERS

ARTICLE I
COVERAGE, OBJECTIVES AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. Coverage

Under this Order, all establishments, which conduct or provide rebuilding services for trucks falling under any of the following categories: M3, N1, N2 or N3 of PNS:1891:2000, must be accredited first by the DTI before they can legally engage in the business of truck rebuilding.

Section 2. Objectives

(a) To assure the public that all rebuilt trucks are safe and roadworthy and meet the standards on exhaust emission.
(b) To develop technical and management expertise in truck rebuilding to pave the way for rebuilding programs covering other types of vehicles.
(c) To supplement the provisions of P.D. 1572 (Regulation of Repair and Service Shops), Republic Act No. 7394 (The Consumer Act of the Philippines) and Republic Act No. 8749 (The Clean Air Act of 1999).
(d) To implement the DTI function of accrediting establishments and practitioners (Section 10 (1), Title X, Book IV of the Administrative Code 1987) and provide for redress mechanism pursuant to EO 913 and Ministry Order No. 69.

Section 3. Definition of Terms

The following terms, which are used in this Order, shall have the meaning indicated for each term:

(a) *Accreditation* : A formal recognition by DTI of a truck rebuilding center as competent to carry out truck rebuilding activities.
(b) *Applicant* : A person, natural or juridical, seeking accreditation under this Order.
(c) *Assessment* : A process that determines whether an organization, individual, process or service meets the requirements of standards or guides.
(d) *Assessment Procedure Manual* : A document embodying the standards and procedures for the accreditation of truck rebuilding centers.
(e) *Assessment Team* : A group of technical persons constituted by the Regional Office/ Provincial Office for the primary purpose of evaluating and assessing the applicant's eligibility to be accredited as truck rebuilding center and to engage in truck rebuilding activities.
(f) *BOC* : Bureau of Customs
(g) *Bond* : The bond mentioned in Section 10 of this Order.
(h) *BIS* : Bureau of Import Services
(i) *CAI* : Certificate of Authority to Import
(j) *Category M3* : Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and compromising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat and having a maximum weight exceeding 5 metric tones.
(k) *Category N1* : Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum weight not exceeding 3.5 metric tones.
(l) *Category N2* : Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum weight exceeding 3.5 but not exceeding 12 metric tones.
(m) *Category N3* : Vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum weight exceeding 12 metric tones.
(n) *CEC* : Certificate of Emission Compliance
(o) *CKD* : Completely Knocked-Down
(p) *Director* : Director of BIS
(q) *DOTC* : Department of Transportation and Communications
(r) *DTI* : Department of Trade and Industry
(s) *Flat Rate* : Fixed pricing for the same job no matter how long it actually took.
(t) *IED* : Import Entry Declaration
(u) *LC* : Letter of Credit
(v) *LTO* : Land Transportation Office
(w) *PO* : Provincial Office
(x) *PD* : Provincial Director
(y) *RO* : Regional Office
(z) *RD* : Regional Director
(aa) *Rebuilding* : Process of restoring a whole unit to its design capacity and efficiency using directly imported or locally acquired used components/parts.
(bb) *Rebuilt Motor Vehicle* : A locally-assembled vehicle using a combination of new or used major parts or components, i.e. engine, chassis, body and cabin / cowl.
(cc) *Secretary* : Secretary of DTI
(dd) *SPVs* : Special Purpose Vehicles
(ee) *TESDA* : Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.
(ff) *Truck* : Any motor vehicle whose body configuration is designed to carry heavy loads, general freight, or for special purpose, regardless of gross vehicle weight.
(gg) *Truck Rebuilding Center* : Any sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation or cooperative, engaged in the rebuilding of truck, hereinafter referred to as "center".
(hh) *This Order* : This Department Administrative Order.

ARTICLE II
REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION

I. Application requirements

Section 4. Qualification of Applicant

Any natural person who is at least 18 years of age or any juridical person who/which is not disqualified by any existing law or regulation to engage in the rebuilding of any road vehicle is qualified to apply for accreditation provided that the requirements set forth in this Article are complied with.

Section 5. Documentary Requirements

(a) A duly accomplished application form, under oath.
(b) A certified copy of the following:
  i. For sole proprietorship: Certificate of Business Name Registration.
  ii. For corporation/partnership: Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate of Registration; Articles of Incorporation/Partnership; and Board Resolution under oath specifying the name of its authorized representative.
  iii. For Cooperative: Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Certificate of Registration; Articles of Cooperation; and Board Resolution under oath specifying the name of its authorized representative.
(c) Location map of the center.
(d) Layout of the center including dimensions.
(e) Chart of Organizational Structure showing the relationship between the center and other operations of the applicant, when applicable.
(f) Chart of Organizational Structure of the center showing its personnel and their respective functions.
(g) List of personnel involved in the operation of the center including their job descriptions, qualifications and responsibilities.
(h) Certificate of competency on rebuilding of road vehicles issued by TESDA or other DTI-accredited institutions providing the same and other relevant training skills.
(i) List of all equipment, including reference materials required for truck rebuilding.
(j) Manual on personnel, equipment and procedure for truck rebuilding.
(k) Certified copy of the insurance policy and the official receipt showing payment of the premium. Insurance coverage shall be not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) and shall cover the following risks: theft, pilferage, fire, flood and loss to cover the motor vehicles stored in the premises of the center for purposes of truck rebuilding.
(l) Such other documents that the Director may require from time to time to protect the interests of the government and the general public.

II. General Requirements

Section 6. Philippine National Standards Applicable

The applicable standards for truck rebuilding shall be the following Philippine National Standards (PNS) :

(a) PNS 1951:2000 (Road Vehicles – Requirements for Rebuilding);
(b) PNS 1891:2000 (Road vehicles classification), in particular, categories M3, N1, N2 and N3.
(c) PNS 1259:1995 (Requirements for repositioning right hand drive to left hand drive on road vehicles);
(d) PNS 1892:2000 (Road vehicles safety belts and restraint system specifications)

Section 7. Personnel

The truck rebuilding center shall have sufficient personnel who have the necessary education, training, technical knowledge and experience for their assigned functions.

Section 8. Work Area

The minimum work area shall be one thousand (1,000) square meters.

Section 9. Equipment and Reference Manual

The truck rebuilding center shall have all the equipment and instruments required in rebuilding as well as reference manual necessary to rebuild road vehicles.

Section 10. Bond

A surety bond, equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the center's assets or One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) whichever is higher, shall be issued in favor of the Republic of the Philippines by a surety or insurance company duly accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission and acceptable to the DTI. The bond which shall guarantee the faithful performance of the job by the center, shall be callable on demand and shall remain in force and effect until cancelled or released by the Director/PD.

The other acceptable form of bond and their corresponding amount shall be as follows:

(a) Bank Guarantee – Ten percent (10%) of assets or One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) whichever is higher.

(b) One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) in cash or in any of the following equivalent forms:
  b.1 Manager's check
  b.2 Cashier's check
  b.3 Insurable letter of credit
  b.4 Bank draft.

ARTICLE III
IMPORTATION OF PARTS

Section 11. Qualified Importers

Only DTI-accredited truck rebuilders may import used components/parts for rebuilding purposes.

All importations of chassis, engines, body and cabin/cowl of the importer-rebuilder shall be for the sole purpose of rebuilding and not for sale as is, except to another DTI-accredited truck rebuilder which shall use said parts for truck rebuilding.

Section 12. Import Procedures

12.1 Prior authorization from the BIS shall be required for importation of CKD trucks, buses and SPVs for rebuilding purposes.
12.2. The application for CAI shall be filed with the BIS using the BIS' prescribed application form. The duly accomplished application form shall be submitted together with the following documents:
12.2.1 Application Fee at P600 per one (1) set of chassis, engine, body and cabin/cowl.
12.2.2 One (1) Original Pro-forma invoice indicating the following information:
  a. classification code of the unit/s
  b. quantity
  c. brand and model
  d. chassis and engine models/numbers
  e. unit price
  f. total amount
  g. rated gross vehicle weight
  h. year model/s
  i. number of wheels
12.3 The CAI shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days for importations under the L/C Mode of Payment, and one hundred twenty (120) days for importations under non-L/C Mode of Payment (i.e., Self-Funded, Document Against Payments, etc) reckoned from the date of issuance of the CAI and cannot be extended without prejudice to re-application should the import authority expire unutilized. On self-funded importation, the authority addressed to the importer shall be used to transact business with the BOC.
12.4 Amendment/s on the authorized importation (i.e., change in the name of supplier, commodity description, authorized agent bank, number of units, value, terms of payment) shall require prior clearance/authority from the BIS.

Section 13. Monitoring

13.1 Endorsement for Registration

The BIS shall endorse the rebuilt unit for LTO registration upon submission of the following:

a. Copy of CAI
b. Complete set of shipping documents:
  1) Commercial Invoice
  2) Packing List
  3) Bill of Lading
c. Certified copy of fully processed IED from trader if components / parts are locally-acquired
d. Certificate of Payment issued by the BOC
e. Notarized "Deed of Sale" if unit/s were bought from duly accredited importer/ rebuilder, if applicable, or invoice.
f. Affidavit of Undertaking by the importer / rebuilder that the unit is rebuilt using components/parts legally imported or locally acquired.
g. CEC from a DTI accredited emission testing center.

13.2 Inspection

The BIS shall conduct ocular inspection on the premises of the importer / rebuilder. In this regard, the BIS or its authorized representatives shall be afforded reasonable access, during business hours, to the importer's/rebuilder's rebuilding site or warehouse to allow them to inspect the imported components/parts.

13.3 Records / Inventory

The importer/rebuilder shall make, keep and make available for inspection, reproduction and validation, on request of the BIS or its authorized representatives, legible and systematic records, showing the importer's/rebuilder's import transactions and utilization of the imported components/parts.

The BIS shall maintain a record of inventory and utilization of the accredited rebuilders imported engine, body, cabin / cowl for rebuilding purposes to ensure that the number of units endorsed for registration corresponds to the existing inventory thereof.

This record and inventory requirement also supports the government's drive against anti-carnapping.

Section 14. Penalties (Administrative Fines)

Failure to comply with the provisions of Article III shall constitute a violation which carry the following penalties, payable at the DTI Cashier's office, without prejudice to other sanctions imposed under the Revised Penal Code and other laws:

(a) No CAI.....P 50,000.00/unit
(b) Road vehicles outside of road vehicle category N1, N2, N3 & M3.....P100,000.00/unit

ARTICLE IV
ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE

Section 15. Where to File

Applications for accreditation and payment of the applicable fees shall be filed with the BIS if the applicant's center is in the National Capital Region or with the PO where the center is located.

Section 16. Review of Documents

The BIS/PO shall review the documentary requirements within five (5) working days from receipt thereof. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the review findings within five (5) working days also. Should there be findings of deficiency/ies, the applicant shall be required to rectify the same within thirty (30) working days from notice.

Section 17. Assessment

An on-site assessment in accordance with the review criteria set forth in the Assessment Procedure Manual shall be conducted by the Assessment Team.

The assessment of the applicant's eligibility for accreditation shall include assessment of the competence of the applicant in terms of its organization in reference, its method of rebuilding, equipment capability, personnel competence of, and compliance with the requirements herein provided and in other applicable laws and regulations.

Section 18. Assessment Report

(a) An Assessment Report, in a prescribed form, shall be prepared and submitted by the Assessment Team to the Director/PD after completion of the assessment. The Report shall contain the findings and recommendations of the Assessment Team.
(b) In case of finding of deficiencies, the Director/PD shall notify the applicant in writing those areas in which the center failed to meet the requirements/standards and require any corrective action that must be performed within thirty (30) working days.

Section 19. Corrective Action/s

Within thirty (30) working days, the applicant shall submit evidence of corrective actions on deficiencies. The Director/PD may grant upon request of the applicant, a thirty (30) working days extension to perform the corrective action/s. The application shall be deemed abandoned and the corresponding application fee shall be forfeited in favor of BIS/PO if corrective action/ s are not done and submitted within the specified period.

Section 20. Final Assessment Report and Evaluation Report

A Final Assessment Report, in a prescribed form, shall be prepared and submitted to the Director/PD by the Assessment Team after completion of the assessment. The Report shall contain the findings of the Assessment Team and shall be indorsed by the PD to the RD if the application is filed with the PO.

Section 21. Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation/Disapproval of Application

Based on the evaluation result and recommendation of the Assessment Team, the Director/ RD shall either (1) issue a Certificate of Accreditation, upon payment of the prescribed fees and posting of required bond, or (2) notify the applicant in writing of the application's disapproval and the ground/s why the application was denied.

Section 22. Appeals

In case of denial of the application by the Director/RD, the applicant may, within fifteen (15) days from receipt of said decision, file a motion for reconsideration with the Director/RD. If said motion is denied, the applicant may, within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the order of denial, appeal to the DTI-OSEC, which may refer the same to its Appeals Committee, for review and recommendation. After approval by the DTI Secretary, the decision of the Appeals Committee may in turn be appealed to the Office of the President and thereafter to the Court of Appeals as provided under Rule 43 of the Rules of Court.

The grounds for appeal to the DTI-OSEC are limited to any of the following:

a. Grave abuse of discretion which may cause grave or irreparable injury to the applicant; or
b. Serious errors in the findings of facts or in the interpretation/application of pertinent law(s)/jurisprudence, which may cause grave or irreparable injury to the applicant.

ARTICLE V
CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

Section 23. Period of Validity of the Certificate.

The Certificate of Accreditation shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of issuance (as stated in the certificate) and must be renewed within three (3) months before its expiration date, unless sooner cancelled voluntarily or on grounds enumerated under Article XI hereof.

Section 24. Non-transferability of the Certificate.

The grantee of a Certificate of Accreditation shall not transfer or alienate in whatever manner, nor authorize another to use said Certificate.

Section 25. Replacement of Certificate

In case the Certificate is lost or destroyed, the accredited truck rebuilding center may apply for the issuance of certified copy of the Certificate based on the records upon payment of the prescribed fee.

ARTICLE VI
RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION

As stated above, the Certificate of Accreditation shall be renewed within three (3) months prior to the expiry date. The application for renewal of accreditation shall be accompanied with the following documents:

(a) A duly accomplished application form, under oath.
(b) A certified copy of the following:
  i. For sole proprietorship: Certificate of Business Name Registration.
  ii. For corporation/partnership: Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate of Registration; Articles of Incorporation/Partnership; and Board Resolution under oath specifying the name of its authorized representative.
  iii. For Cooperative: Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Certificate of Registration; Articles of Cooperation; and Board Resolution under oath specifying the name of its authorized representative.
(c) Certificate of competency on rebuilding of road vehicles issued by TESDA or other DTI-accredited institutions providing the same and other relevant training skills.
(d) List of all equipment, including reference materials required for truck rebuilding.
(e) Manual on personnel, equipment and procedure for truck rebuilding.
(f) Certified copy of the insurance policy and the official receipt showing payment of the premium. Insurance coverage shall be not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) and shall cover the following risks: theft, pilferage, fire, flood and loss to cover the motor vehicles stored in the premises of the center for purposes of truck rebuilding.
(g) Such other documents that the Director may require from time to time to protect the interests of the government and the general public.

ARTICLE VII
BRANCH OFFICE

Every branch office of a center shall apply for a separate accreditation. It shall be subject to the same requirements, processing procedure for accreditation, and fees imposed on its main center.

ARTICLE VIII
CONDITIONS OF ACCREDITATION

Following the grant of accreditation, the center shall abide by the following commitments:

Section 26. Maintenance and Calibration of Equipment

All adjusting, servicing and rebuilding equipment shall be maintained in good condition. Instruments and equipment requiring calibration or adjustment shall be calibrated and adjusted in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer and the requirements of the BIS.

Section 27. Inspection

The BIS/RO/PO shall conduct an on-site inspection within six (6) months after the initial Certificate of Accreditation has been granted, and at least once a year, thereafter. In this regard, the BIS/RO/PO or its authorized representatives shall be afforded with reasonable access during business hours to the center's premises to allow them to inspect the equipment, facilities and documents pertaining to their operation and to verify competence of and compliance by the center's personnel with the standards set in their Manual.

Section 28. Records

The center shall make, keep and make available for inspection and reproduction, on request of the BIS/RO/PO or its authorized representatives, legible and systematic records, showing the center's transactions for a period of not less than three years after completion of any transaction. Records required to be maintained shall include copies of the following:

(a) Quantity and type of vehicles rebuilt.
(b) Complaints pertaining to the center's rebuilt vehicles.
(c) Records on the relevant qualifications, training skills, and experience of the technical personnel.
(d) Records shall be maintained for all equipment including number of units, date acquired, location (permanent facility) and condition.

Section 29. Display

All centers shall comply with the following provisions governing display of documents and signage:

(a) Certificate of Accreditation. The Certificate of Accreditation of the center and of its technician shall be posted prominently in the center.
(b) Official Signboard. The center shall display conspicuously an official signboard outside its facility.

The Director/PD may order the replacement of any official signboard or price list, which is not visible or no longer visible.

Section 30. Posting of Prices

The center shall post conspicuously in an area frequented by customers and make available upon request by the customer, a list of prices for specific activities for which it is licensed. Such posted prices shall include, but not limited to:

(a) Price charged for each type of vehicles, if such prices differ
(b) Flat rate of each kind of service to be performed

Section 31. Warranty

The center shall provide a minimum warranty of three (3) months covering the workmanship of the rebuilt unit.

Section 32. Subcontracting

The center may only subcontract specialized work, such as repair/adjustment of the vehicle emission control system and fuel system calibration. However the center must obtain authorization from the customer for subcontract work and shall be responsible for the repairs performed by the subcontractor as if the repairs were performed by the center or by itself.

Section 33. Reportorial Requirement

The authorized representative of the center shall report in writing to the BIS/PO:

(a) Any change of information related to the center such as change in authorized representatives, personnel or equipment not later than five (5) working days following such change.
(b) Change of address or name of the center must be made known not later than five (5) working days before effecting such change.
(c) Relevant statistics of their operation, such as number of motor vehicles rebuilt, complaints received and action taken in the manner and form the BIS will prescribe, to be submitted to the BIS/PO not later than five (5) working days after the end of each month.
(d) Such other reports which the Director may deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Order and other related laws and regulations.

ARTICLE IX
SCHEDULE OF FEES

The following fees relative to the accreditation of centers shall be payable to the DTI:

Application Fee (Non-refundable. Payable upon issuance of application form)	P 300.00
Assessment Fee (Including document review, evaluation and inspection. Non-refundable.)	500.00/man-hour
Reassessment Fee (Including document review, evaluation and inspection. Non-refundable.)	500.00/man-hour
Accreditation Fee (Payable upon issuance of Certificate of Accreditation)	30,000.00

Other Fees:

1. Issuance of a certified copy of a lost or destroyed Certificate of Accreditation	500.00
2. Issuance of any other certification	100.00

ARTICLE X
RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

Section 34. Bureau of Import Services (BIS)

The BIS shall perform the general function of overseeing the implementation of the accreditation scheme for centers. The BIS shall perform the following specific functions:

1.1 Formulate policy guidelines for the effective implementation of the accreditation scheme for centers;
1.2 Maintain a Registry of Accredited Truck Rebuilding Centers and of accredited technicians under their respective employ;
1.3 Maintain a manual for the conduct of the accreditation;
1.4 Maintain a Registry of recognized and authorized assessors;
1.5 Enter into agreement with other government agencies as well as with private sector in the implementation of these guidelines;
1.6 Represent DTI in various consultative meetings or workshops geared towards the upgrading and improvement of the accreditation scheme; and
1.7 Undertake such other measures as may be deemed necessary to improve the accreditation scheme for centers.

Section 35. Regional Office (RO)

The RO shall perform the following functions:

(a) Constitute an Evaluation Committee which shall evaluate and review the Assessment Report and prepare an Evaluation Report thereon.
(b) Issue Certificates of Accreditation to applicants that comply with the requirements for accreditation.
(c) Exercise the adjudicatory functions of the Secretary under EO 913 s. 1983 relative to complaints arising from the implementation of this Order.

Section 36. Provincial Office (PO)

The PO shall perform the following functions:

(a) Accept applications for accreditation of applicants operating within its provincial jurisdiction.
(b) Constitute and convene the Assessment Team to conduct assessment of applicant's compliance with the accreditation requirements provided in this Order.
(c) Maintain records of accredited Truck Rebuilding Centers and of accredited technicians under their employ, within its provincial jurisdiction.
(d) Exercise the delegated functions under E.O. No. 913 s. 1983 relative to complaints arising from the implementation of this Order.
(e) Exercise visitorial powers over truck rebuilding centers which are covered by this Order, whether or not accredited under this Order, to determine their compliance with this Order.

Section 37. Truck Rebuilding Centers – Advisory Committee

The Truck Rebuilding Centers – Advisory Committee, hereinafter referred to as the TRC-AC, is hereby created.

3.1 The TRC-AC shall be composed of:

(a) Director of BIS as Chairman
(b) Director of Bureau of Product Standards
(c) A representative from Regional Operations Group
(d) A private sector representative
(e) A representative from TESDA

The TRC-AC shall function as an advisory body to the BIS. It shall assist the BIS in the review and formulation of policies pertaining to accreditation of centers and their technicians. The TRC-AC shall establish rules to govern its internal affairs. The presence of four (4) members shall constitute a quorum, and the vote of the majority of the members present, there being a quorum, shall be necessary for the adoption of any act or decision of the TRC-AC.

Section 38. Assessment Team

The Director/PD shall constitute an Assessment Team composed of representative/s from the BIS/PO and technical experts/assessors duly recognized by the BIS, as members. The team shall be headed by a DTI-representative designated by the Director/PD.

The functions of the Assessment Team are:

(a) Review and evaluate the application and the documentary requirements.
(b) Conduct on-site assessment/reassessment of the applicant's and/or the accredited center's facility and equipment, and prepare an Assessment Report.
(c) Exercise visitorial powers to monitor the activities of the accredited centers in order to ensure their faithful compliance with these guidelines.

ARTICLE XI
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

(a) Operating a truck rebuilding center or engaging in truck rebuilding business without proper accreditation by DTI;
(b) Violation of any of the conditions of accreditation;
(c) Engaging in acts of misrepresentation for the purpose of securing an accreditation or renewal thereof or in the pursuit of business, such as giving a material false statement in the application or submitting falsified or spurious documents;
(d) Obstructing or attempting to obstruct inspection by the BIS/PO, BIS or its authorized representative/s;
(e) Doing any willful or fraudulent act as a consequence of which another is injured or damaged;
(f) Willful and deliberate abandonment without lawful and/or just excuse of any job accepted or undertaken by the center;
(g) Any act or omission similar or analogous to the foregoing.

ARTICLE XII
ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION

Section 39. Modes of Commencing an Administrative Action

An administrative action in the BIS or in the PO may be commenced either:

a. by the Director/PD motu proprio, by signing a Formal Charge against the offender; or
b. by any other person (natural or juridical) or by an entity authorized by law to sue, by filing a complaint against the offender, with BIS/PO concerned. The complaint shall not be converted to a Formal Charge.

Section 40. When to File a Complaint/Formal Charge

The Complaint/Formal Charge shall be filed within three (3) years from the date of the commission of the offense or from the date of the discovery thereof. After the said period of three (3) years, the filing thereof shall be barred.

ARTICLE XIII
COMPLAINTS

Section 41. Probable Cause Rule

The probable cause rule and not the prima facie case rule shall be applied to complaints and Formal Charges.

(PDI--Oct. 30, 2003)

Section 42. Mandatory Mediation

In either of the two (2) modes above, it shall be mandatory for the Mediation Officer to conduct a mediation of the case.

Section 43. Three (3) kinds of Decision in the Mediation Stage; Order of Dismissal

The Director/PD may render the following decisions during the mediation stage:

a. Decision based on compromise agreement between the parties. This decision is immediately executory and is not appealable.
b. Decision based on a Voluntary Undertaking submitted by the respondent. This decision is immediately executory and is not appealable. The conforme of the complainant is not required because this is not a compromise agreement.
c. Decision based on the respondent's admission of the offense charged (like "plea of guilty"). The Director/PD shall impose on the offender, penalties/sanctions taken from E.O. 913 and Ministry Order No. 69, S. 1983. The penalties/sanctions, whether one (1) only or more than one (1) should be commensurate to the offense, taking into account the admission of the offense and other circumstances. This decision can be appealed to the Office of Legal Affairs (if the decision was rendered by the Director) or to the Regional Director (if the decision was rendered by a PD) within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision.
d. The Director/PD may also issue an Order of Dismissal of the case, based on the following:
   1. The BIS/PO elects not to adjudicate the case. This order of dismissal is not appealable. (Section 15 (b), M.O. 69).
   2. There is no probable cause. This may be appealed to the Regional Director within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the order.
   3. Based on a joint motion to dismiss filed by both parties to the case. This is not appealable.
   4. Based on a motion to dismiss filed by the complainant. This is not appealable.

Section 44. Elevation of Case

In case of failure of mediation, or in case no decision or order of dismissal (mentioned in the proceeding Section) is rendered/issued in the mediation stage, the complaint or the Formal Charge shall be elevated as follows:

a. Case originating from BIS – elevate to the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), DTI.
b. Case originating from PO – elevate to the Regional Office concerned:
The Hearing Officer of OLA or of the RO shall conduct a formal hearing of the case and thereafter either dismiss the case or render a decision. The penalties/sanctions (one or more) shall be commensurate to the offense committed. The decision/order of dismissal of the Hearing Officer of OLA or of the RO shall be subject to the approval of the OLA Director or RD.

Section 45 Powers of the Director/PD

The Director/PD shall have the following powers:

a. To file a formal charge against any person (natural or juridical) or entity who/which is believed to have committed or is committing a violation of this Order, based on reports, documents, verification, monitoring, inspection and other sources of information.
b. To designate, from among the employees under his supervision or control, the prosecution officer, mediation officer and other officers who may be needed in carrying out the BIS'/PD's functions under this Order.

Section 46. Administrative Penalties/Sanctions

After formal hearing, the OLA Hearing Officer or the RD may impose one or more of the following administrative penalties, even if not prayed for in the complaint: (M.O. 69, E.O. 913)

1. the issuance of a cease and desist order;
2. the acceptance of a voluntary assurance of compliance or discontinuance under such terms and conditions as may be imposed;
3. the condemnation or seizure of products which are the subject of the offense;
4. the forfeiture of the products subject of the offense, the paraphernalia and all properties, real or personal, which have been used in the commission of the offense;
5. the imposition of administrative fines in such amount as deemed reasonable by the OLA Hearing Officer/RD which shall in no case be less than five hundred pesos nor more than one hundred fifty thousand pesos plus not more than one thousand pesos for each day of continuing violation. The fine imposed under this Section shall be regardless of the limits of the criminal fine fixed in the "trade and industry law" violated;
6. the cancellation of any permit, license, authority, or registration which may have been granted by the Department, or the suspension of the validity thereof for such period of time as the OLA Hearing Officer/RD may deem reasonable which shall not, however, exceed one year;
7. the withholding of any permit, license, authority or registration which is being secured by the respondent from the Department;
8. the assessment of damages;
9. censure; and
10. other analogous penalties or sanctions, such as closure for a period not exceeding one (1) year.

Section 47. Supplementary Rules

The procedure provided in this Article shall be supplemented by M.O. No. 69, S. 1983, as amended.

Section 48. A schedule of fines contained in Annex "A" which is made as integral part of this Order shall be the basis in the imposition of administrative fine. The circumstances such as mitigating, aggravating, and alternative, set forth in DAO No. 7, s. 1999, shall be taken into account to arrive at an appropriate fine.

ARTICLE XIV
SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If for any reason these rules and regulations or any of its provisions or the application of such provision/s or portions thereof is declared invalid, all other provisions unaffected thereby shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XV
REPEALING CLAUSE

All issuances and rules and regulations which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly by this Order.

ARTICLE XVI
EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall be published in full in a newspaper of general circulation and shall take effect sixty (60) days after said publication.

October 10, 2003, Makati City, Philippines

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:

ADRIAN S. CRISTOBAL, JR.
Undersecretary, CWTRG

ANNEX "A"

SCHEDULE OF FINES

FREQUENCY OF VIOLATION	BASIC FINES		ATTENDING CIRCUMSTANCES			
	E.O. 913		Only Mitigating	Mitigating Outnumber Aggravating	Aggravating Outnumber Mitigating	Only Aggravating
	Company Officers	Corporations				
1st Offense	P25,000.00	50,000.00	Less 25% of the Basic Fine	Add 15% to Basic Fine	Add 30% to Basic Fine	Add 50% to Basic Fine
2nd Offense	50,000.00	75,000.00				
3rd Offense and succeeding offenses	150,000.00	150,000.00	Not Applicable			

(PDI--Oct. 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
Manila

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE FURTHER AMENDING THE TITLE AND SECTIONS TWO AND THREE OF ORDINANCE NO. 7882, S-1992.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Title and Sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance No. 7882, Series of 1992 are hereby amended to read as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR, TO ACQUIRE, EITHER BY NEGOTIATION OR EXPROPRIATION, THOSE PARCELS OF LAND DECLARED AS AREA FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT (APD) NO. 21 CONSISTING OF THE LOTS COVERED BY TCT Nos. 117046, 205017, 207570, 205016, 98657, 98656, 98655, 98651, 156408, 175988, 113186, 143503, 163199, 175989, 67762, 58691, 56388, 116212, 164517, 195453, 127425, 129277, 44083, 45588, 58327, 59085, 62825, 59086, 72655, 56717, 196969, 68135, 53516, 72097, 72418, 123548, 86825, 98649, 98650, 86824, 86826, 86827, 131085, 162019, 10585, 170560, 17169, 97337, 60418, 61760, 53670, 111165, 131781, 136425, 167902, 189728, 70736, 169803, 72512/637, 54547, 178659, 178658, 178657, 157441, 157442, 44345, 231942, 113186, 143491, 143492, 62892, 154724, 143459, 42449, 217198, 28205, 27111, 108,734, 123740, 139580, 135397, 116213, 94461, 94462, 94463, 94464, 42658, 122261, 42656, 63343, 63342, 47584, 35547 62888, 180768, 113337, 110678, 81609, 135398, 17314, 42675, 105477,6365, 92653, 127334, 42680, 43038, 18404, 22407, 94531, 56181, 75476, 234904, 126563, 59967, 59085, 58529, 117509, 20059, 56150, 51977, 94532, 63790, 240478, 24479, 240480, 117046, 14220, 69988, 197216, 95303, 124621, 112831, 98654, 89623, 89624, 89473, 89966, 237052, 43638, 64751, 137437, 63484, 249710, 17981, 116211, 21341, 38643, 68120, 74543, 212582, 129060, 186868, 177194, 94459, 141730, 56318, 94457, 199831, 53119, ALL LOCATED IN SAN ANDRES AND STA. ANA, MANILA FOR AWARDING TO ACTUAL BONA FIDE RESIDENTS THEREIN AT COST AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS NECESSARY THEREFOR."

"SEC. 2. Pursuant to the above-declared policy, the City Government represented by the City Mayor is hereby authorized to acquire either by negotiation or through expropriation those parcels of land declared as Area for Priority Development (APD) No. 21 consisting of lots covered by TCT Nos. 117046, 205017, 207570, 205016, 98657, 98656, 98655, 98651, 156408, 175988, 113186, 143503, 163199, 175989, 67762, 58691, 56388, 116212, 164517, 195453, 127425, 129277, 44083, 45588, 58327, 59085, 62825, 59086, 72655, 56717, 196969, 68135, 53516, 72097, 72418, 123548, 86825, 98649, 98650, 86824, 86826, 86827, 131085, 162019, 110585, 170560, 17169, 97337, 60418, 61760, 53670, 111165, 131781, 136425, 167902, 189728, 70736, 169803, 72512/637, 54547, 178659, 78658, 178657, 157441, 157442, 44345, 231942, 113186, 143491, 143492, 62892, 151724, 143459, 42449, 217198, 28205, 27111, 108734, 123740, 139580, 135397, 116213, 94461, 94462, 94463, 94464, 42658, 122261, 42656, 63343, 63342, 47584, 35547, 62888, 180768, 113337, 110678, 81609, 135398, 17314, 42675, 105477, 6365, 92653, 127334, 42680, 43038, 18404, 22407, 94531, 56181, 75476, 234904, 126563, 59967, 59085, 58529, 117509, 20059, 56150, 51977, 94532, 63790, 240478, 24479, 240480, 117046, 14220, 69968, 197216, 95303, 124621, 112831, 98654, 89623, 89624, 89473, 89966, 237052, 43638, 64751, 137437, 63484, 249710, 17981, 116211, 21341, 38643, 68120, 74543, 212582, 129060, 186868, 177194, 94459, 141730, 56318, 94457, 199831, 53119, all located in San Andres and Sta. Ana, Manila for awarding to actual bona fide residents therein at cost and appropriating funds necessary therefor."

"SEC. 3. The amount equivalent to the fair market value based on the current tax declaration of the property to be acquired, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose is hereby allocated out of any available funds of the City Treasury."

SEC. 2. Effectivity Clause. The Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today.

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, on

APPROVED:

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

RODOLFO F. LAPID
Secretary to the City Council

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS: HON. ALEJANDRO I. ATIENZA, Hon. Cita Astals, Hon. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Hon. Richard C. Ibay, Hon. Ricardo S. Isip, Hon. Roberto R. Ortega, Jr. and HON. CASIMIRO C. SISON, Acting Majority Floor Leader

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the City Council ordered the publication of the above proposed Ordinance during its regular session held on February 4, 2003, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

RODOLFO F. LAPID
City Government Dept. Head III
(Secretary to the City Council)

(PDI--Oct. 30, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2003-006

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Date of Bidding : November 18, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.
Sinulog Function Room

Pre-Bid Conference : November 4, 2003 - 2:00 p.m.
Hariraya Function Room

"OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NPC HEAD OFFICE CAFÉ - 'THE SOLARIUM' FOR TWO YEAR CONTRACT AT NPC-OBC, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY"

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using THREE (3) ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Hariraya Function Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility and bid documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division (MMSD), Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 1, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of P600.00 which is non-refundable and submission of SEC/DTI registration or in case of cooperative, CDA registration starting **October 24, 2003.** Issuance of eligibility and bid documents shall be in the morning only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued seven (7) days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at Hariraya Function Room, on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same though proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of R.A. No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) in the form of either Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **NATALIA O. GUINTO**
Officer-in-Charge, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Pangasinan
City of Alaminos

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project.

Name of Project	:	Completion of a 2-Storey Day Care Center
Project Location	:	San Jose, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	P486,747.25
Source of Fund	:	20% Development Fund
Contract Duration	:	55 cd
Scope of Work	:	Concrete, Masonry, Carpentry, Structural Steel, Tinsmithry, Fabricated, Plumbing, Painting, Electrical
Contractor's CIAP Classification	:	At least "Small A"

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Period for the Submission of Letter of Intent	:	October 31-November 18, 2003
Period for the Submission of Eligibility Forms	:	November 19-25, 2003
Period for the Issuance of Bid Documents	:	December 1-8, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference at 2:00 PM, Office of the BAC Chairman		December 8, 2003
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelope, c/o BAC Secretariat		December 22, 2003 at 12:00 Noon
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelope at the Office of the BAC Chairman		December 22, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, City Hall, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, c/o **ENGR. ROEL T. AÑONUEVO**, City Planning and Development Coordinator (Tel. No. 075-551-6449) upon payment of non-refundable fee of P250.00. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman, C/O of the BAC Secretariat.

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the eligibility check of prospective bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The provisons of **RA 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other, applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the local government unit.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MARIO R. MABALOT**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Website-Alaminoscity.gov.ph; E-mail-Planning@Alaminoscity.gov.ph; Fax No. (075)-552-7109 • Tel. Nos. (075) 551-6449/654-1099

(PDI--Oct. 30 & Nov. 5, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

22 October 2003

NOTICE

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested suppliers of office supplies and equipment, printers of official forms as well as contractors engaged in the repair of office equipment and motor vehicles to participate in the accreditation to be conducted by the LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Procurement of Supplies, Materials, Equipment and Services (BAC-PSMES).

Interested suppliers/printers/contractors or their authorized representatives shall submit a certified true copy of the following accreditation requirements (original copy to be presented for authentication):

a.) G-EPS registration certificate;
b.) DTI/SEC registration certificate;
c.) Mayor's permit;
d.) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
e.) Sworn statement from the prospective supplier/printer/contractor that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation; and
f.) List of clients for the past two (2) years.

Submission of accreditation requirements shall be on November 07 to December 05, 2003 at BAC-PSMES Secretariat, Lower Ground Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

BAC-PSMES shall issue, after due verification, a certification of official registration to suppliers, printers and contractors who shall properly comply with and submit all accreditation requirements.

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairperson
BAC-PSMES

(PDI-Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 6, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 924-3119; 924-7971; 924-7977
Telefax No.: 924-7973

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC)** is inviting all accredited agencies to bid for **SECURITY SERVICE** (for CY 2004) with **nationwide network/branches** or partnership with other local/regional security agencies.

Non-accredited agencies may still participate provided, all eligibility/pre-qualification requirements are submitted at a date stated below.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Five Million Five Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos **(Php 5,576,400.00).**

All interested parties may submit all necessary pre-qualification and bid documents to:

THE BIDDING COMMITTEE
National Meat Inspection Commission
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 921-4473; 924-3119; 924-7971

List of pre-qualification documents for submission:

1. Name of company/business, address, telephone/fax number and year of incorporation/year business was established.
2. Incorporation papers from the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or from the Department of Trade and Industry for single proprietorship.
3. Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Tax Clearance.
4. Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Certificate.
5. Audited financial statements (balance sheets and profit and loss statements) for the current year.
6. Track record (list of customer references and their addresses).
7. Certified Xerox copy of the latest Business/License Permit for the current year.
8. Certified Xerox copy of the latest Court Clearance.
9. Certified Xerox copy of the latest DOLE Clearance.
10. Latest SSS Clearance.
11. List of Bank References.
12. List of equipment owned.
13. Certificate of registration and clearance with no pending complaint from the PNP.
14. Proof of Partnership with local/regional security agencies.

Deadline for submission of documents shall be on **November 12, 2003** at exactly 10:00 a.m. at NMIC Property Section.

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on **November 14, 2003** at 10:00 a.m., NMIC-Conference Room.

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative on **November 28, 2003** at 10:00 a.m., NMIC-Conference Room.

Bidders are required to post a 1% bid security of the approved Budget for the Contract in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check and bank draft or 2.5% if in the form of surety bond.

The NMIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For more inquiries please contact **Mr. ISABELO C. RODRIGUEZ** at Property Section at above-stated address and telephone numbers.

(Sgd.) **DR. MINDA S. MANANTAN**
Chairperson, NMIC-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 30 & Nov. 5, 2003)

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Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

The Canadian Embassy, Manila
announces its change of address and contact numbers
due to its move to its new chancery effective
04 November 2003.
The Embassy will *only* be closed on Friday, October 31 and Monday, November 3.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, MANILA IS LOCATED AT

Level 6, 7, and 8, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

The public may contact the Embassy through the new trunklines:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

For visa application and immigration matters,
please contact the Call Centre:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Call charges at Php18.00 per minute)

Comprehensive information on visa applications may be obtained from our website: www.manila.gc.ca

For specific concerns, you may reach the following sections:

Section	Telephone	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

L'Ambassade du Canada à Manille,
suite à son déménagement à une nouvelle chancellerie,
annonce son changement d'adresse et de numéro de téléphone.
Ceux-ci seront en vigueur dès le 4 novembre.
L'Ambassade ne sera fermée que le vendredi 31 octobre et le lundi 3 novembre.

L'AMBASSADE DU CANADA À MANILLE EST SITUÉE AU:

Niveau 6, 7, et 8, Tour 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Avenue Ayala
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168
Le public peut maintenant rejoindre l'ambassade en utilisant ces nouveaux numéros:
Tél: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82
Pour les demandes de visa et les affaires concernant l'immigration
S.V.P. contactez le centre d'appel:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Les frais d'appel sont de Php18.00 par minute.)

Pour de plus amples informations, consultez notre site web:
www.manila.gc.ca

Pour des questions spécifiques, vous pouvez rejoindre:

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Gestion/Consulaire	857-90-01	843-10-82
le Service des Délégués Commerciaux du Canada	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Relations Politiques et Economiques/Affaires Publiques	857-90-13	843-10-78

Canadian Embassy
Manila

Ambassade du Canada
Manille

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa Maynila
ay ibinabalita ang pagpapalit ng tanggapan at telepono
simula ika-apat ng Nobyembre 2003.
Ang Pasuguan ay sarado lamang sa Biyernes, ika-31 ng Oktubre at Lunes, ika 3 ng Nobyembre.

Ang Pasuguan ng Canada sa MAYNILA ay nasa

Palapag 6, 7, at 8 ng Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P.O. Box 2168

Maaaring tumawag o magpadala ng liham ang publiko sa mga sumusunod:
Tel: 857-90-01
Fax: 843-10-82

Para sa aplikasyon sa bisa at mga bagay tungkol sa imigrasyon,
mangyaring tumawag sa Call Centre:
1-909-1018888 (PLDT)
1-903-1018888 (BAYANTEL)
1-900-1018888 (GLOBE)
(Php18.00 ang halaga ng tawag kada minuto)

Ang pangkalahatang kaalaman ukol sa aplikasyon sa bisa
ay maaaring makuha mula sa aming website:
www.manila.gc.ca

Para sa partikular na serbisyo, maaring tawagan ang mga sumununod na tanggapan:

Seksyon	Telepono	Fax
Immigration and Visa	857-90-02	843-10-94/96
Management and Consular	857-90-01	843-10-82
Trade Commissioner Service	857-90-95/857-91-31	843-10-80
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	857-91-33/857-91-20/857-91-21	843-10-83
Political, Economic Relations, and Public Affairs	857-90-13	843-10-78

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

DPWH, PNCC and Skyway Corporation all set with "Oplan Kaluluwa" on All Saints' Day holiday

In coordination with the ***Department of Public Works and Highways***, led by Secretary Florante M. Soriquez, and the ***Toll Regulatory Board***, tollway operators ***Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC)*** and ***PNCC Skyway Corporation*** will hold its annual motorist assistance program dubbed "Oplan Kaluluwa" from October 31 to November 3, 2003 to guide and assist motorists who will troop to the provinces and the cemeteries during the "All Saints' Day" holiday.

The assistance program is the tollway operators' response to the expected heavy flow of motorists who will use the North and South Luzon Tollways (NLT and SLT) and the Skyway System during the long weekend holiday.

Among the various measures to be implemented by PNCC and Skyway Corporation include:

- The deployment of additional traffic enforcers in identified choke points (i.e Balintawak, Valenzuela, San Fernando and Sta. Ines interchanges at the NLT; and at Sales, Bicutan, Sucat, Alabang, Susana Heights, Sta. Rosa and Calamba interchanges and at the San Juan Viaduct at the SLT).
- The augmentation of toll tellers by assigning ambulant tellers and installing tandem booths at busy interchanges
- In view of the ongoing construction at the NLT, several traffic schemes will be implemented in the following areas:
  - ❖ For motorists coming from A. Bonifacio and EDSA going to Eternal Garden, PNCC and Leighton Contractor, in cooperation with MMDA and Quezon City PNP Traffic Management, will open a one-way traffic from October 31 – November 2 in between the column posts of the proposed Novaliches flyover to avoid any queuing at the approach of the Camachile flyover;
  - ❖ From Balintawak to Bocaue, there will be a minimum of three (3) available lanes including shoulder from October 30 to November 1 to accommodate influx of motorists going northbound;
  - ❖ From November 2-3, a minimum of three lanes including shoulder will be made available from Balintawak to Bocaue for southbound motorists going back to Manila.
  - ❖ From Mexico to Dau, two lanes (outer and shoulder) will be open for northbound motorists while one lane (inner) will be open for southbound users as asphalt overlay activity in the area along the southbound carriageway is ongoing.
  - ❖ The San Fernando-Pau Bridge portion, where counterflow scheme is presently being implemented, will be completely open to traffic during the holidays.
- Three (3) cranes and several tow trucks will be on standby along strategic places at the NLT in case heavy trucks and equipment get stalled during the period. These will be located between Balintawak and Valenzuela, Valenzuela to Marilao and Bocaue to Burol.

To ensure the successful implementation of these safety and security measures, the PNCC has also coordinated its traffic management plan with the following government agencies: the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the TMO, and with the various local government units which localities are traversed by the tollways.

For emergency situations, motorists may get in touch with PNCC and Skyway Corproation through Text PNCC 2299 or at hotline number 1340.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UPTOWN GIRLS
6 THE PHONE
7 THE SPY
8 IDENTITY

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MATCHSTICKMEN
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 BUGBOG SARADO
6 UNDERWORLD
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 VISIBLE SECRET

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 THE SPY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 THE PHONE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 BELPHEGOR
8 IDENTITY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128945

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
3 PILYA
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 IDENTITY
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

SM BICUTAN
7863055

1 IDENTITY
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MY FISRT ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7143522 • 7161416

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 IDENTITY
4 MAPUPULANG LABI
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6 THE SPY
7 THE PHONE
8 UNDERWORLD
9 MY FISRT ROMANCE
10 UTANG NG AMA

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1 IDENTITY
2 THE PHONE
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UPTOWN GIRLS
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE SPY
9 UTANG NG AMA
10 MAPUPULANG LABI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9359749

1 BELPHEGOR
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 THE SPY
7 IDENTITY
8 MY FIRST ROMANCE
9 THE PHONE
10 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
11 UNDERWORLD
12 MAPUPULANG LABI

SM CITY DAVAO
2370950

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3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 UNDERWORLD

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4 UNDERWORLD
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7 ITALIAN JOB
8 THE PHONE
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 THE RUNDOWN
11 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
12 MAPUPULANG LABI

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2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MAPUPULANG LABI
4 UTANG NG AMA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 MATCHSTICKMEN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 UNDERWORLD
7 RESERVED
8 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY MANILA
5209240

1 IDENTITY
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 UNDERWORLD
7 MAPUPULANG LABI
8 THE SPY
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 BELPHEGOR
11 THE PHONE
12 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 MATCHSTICKMEN
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM CITY BAGUIO
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THE PODIUM CINEMA

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THE SPY
12:10 FS/12:35 MF/2:40/4:45/6:50/8:55/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

THE RUNDOWN
11:00 FS/11:10 FS/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

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4 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:05MF,2:15,4:20,6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
2 THE SPY 10:20MF,12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00LMF-11:40END
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50MF,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50LMF-11:45END
3 THE PHONE 12:05MF,2:15,4:20,6:30,9:00LMF-10:40END
6 THE RUNDOWN 10:30MF,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:55LMF-11:45END
7 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:55,11:45
9 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10,1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00,11:45
8 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING 11:00,1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50,11:30
10 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 11:25,1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50,11:25

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2 THE RUNDOWN 10:10,12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50,11:35
3 UPTOWN GIRLS 11:05,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00,11:30
4 THE PHONE 11:05MF,12:55,2:45,4:35,6:25,8:15,10:00LMF,11:40END
5 MAPUPULANG LABI 10:30,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45,11:20
6 IDENTITY 11:15,1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40,11:10
7 THE SPY 10:30,12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45,11:20

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2 THE SPY
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UPTOWN GIRLS
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
7 IDENTITY
8 MAPUPULANG LABI

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 IDENTITY
4 THE PHONE
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 THE SPY
7 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
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5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MAPUPULANG LABI

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THE RUNDOWN
MEDALLION
MY FIRST ROMANCE
FREDDY VS. JASON
INNER SENSES
KATAS

Iloilo
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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
3 MATCHSTICK MEN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 BUGBOG SARADO
6 UNDERWORLD

Sta. Rosa
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(049)837-0907

THE RUNDOWN
INNER SENSES
PRISIPE AT SIRENA
MY FIRST ROMANCE
THE SUSPECT

Lipa, Batangas
Old Natona Highway, Marawa na Lupa

1 MY 1ST ROMANCE
2 MY 1ST ROMANCE
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 SOON TO OPEN

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1 MAPUPULANG LABI
2 IDENTITY
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN

SOON TO OPEN
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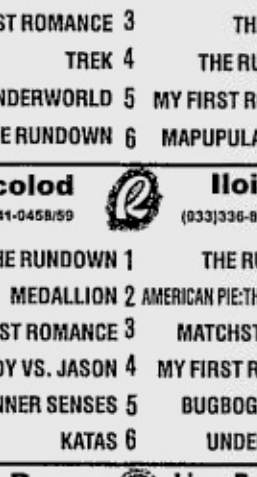

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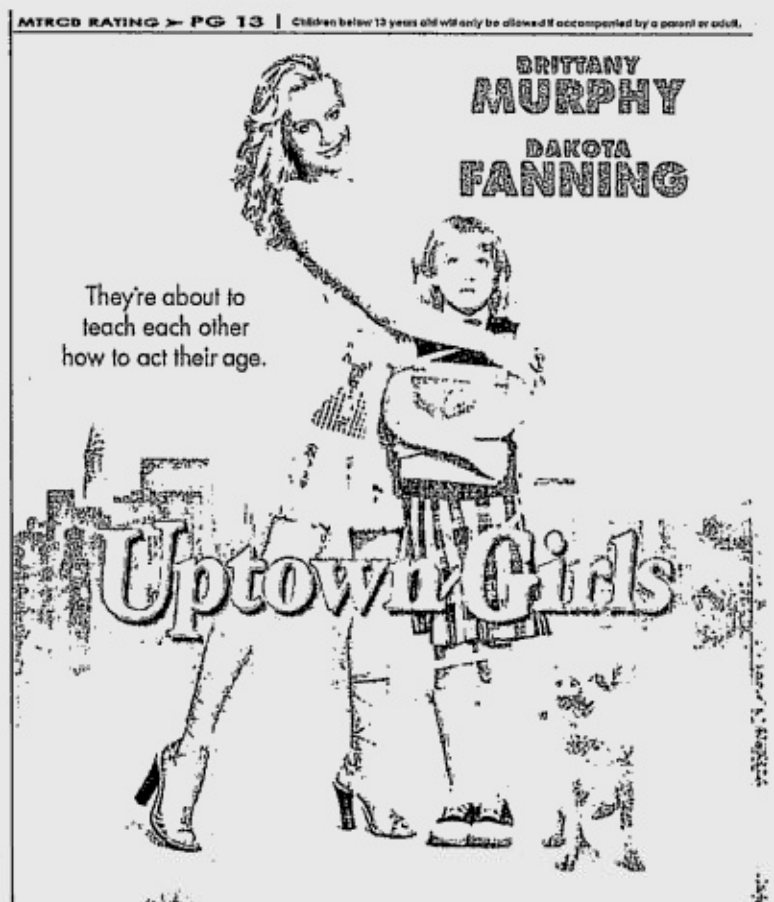

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2003

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Malayan and Smart launch Text-Insure

MALAYAN Insurance and Smart recently launched a new SMS application called Text-Insure - the fastest, cheapest, and easiest way to get a personal accident insurance.

For the first time in the world, just by using text, you can now apply for and buy a 24-hour personal accident insurance coverage. This innovation, jointly developed by Smart and Malayan, will make the tedious process of insurance application and payment, faster, easier, and more convenient.

99 percent of Filipinos do not have accident insurance because they have no access to it or they can't afford the premiums. Now, with Text-Insure, millions of Filipinos can now avail of a very affordable and accessible insurance coverage.

For as low as P10 a day, Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers can now text and get a 24-hour accident insurance coverage of P500,000 using their cellphones.

You can insure yourself even for just one day. There are no minimum terms, no medical check-ups and no monthly bills to pay. Just text, anytime, anywhere.

Here's how: Register first by texting the following personal information. Text: INSURE REGO and send to 323.

After registering you will receive a text message with the unique passport key number for your cell phone and instructions on how to buy your insurance. The one-time registration costs P2.50.

Just like regular insurance, for your protection, you must sign an insurance policy. Text-Insure insurance policies will be published in major newspapers every Friday. You only need to register and sign the policy once. You do not need to submit the policy. Keep the insurance policy because you will need it when making an insurance claim.

Once you have registered and signed the policy, you can now purchase your P500,000 personal accident insurance. Just text the following information: INSURE BUY (which is supplied after registration), and send to 323 for both Smart and Talk N' Text.

You will immediately receive a confirmation text message with the date and time of the effectivity of the insurance coverage and an insurance Certificate of Coverage Number. You will be charged P10 per insurance purchase

Text-Insure is the perfect insurance coverage for travelers. Just text before you leave home and you're immediately insured for P500,000. Text-Insure gives you the peace of mind and financial security you need just in case anything unexpected happens.

Text-Insure accident insurance will be guaranteed by Malayan Insurance, the number one non-life insurance company in the Philippines for the last 33 years. Through the years, Malayan has kept its leadership by continually introducing innovations in the insurance industry.

For any questions, you may call the Malayan Text-Insure Customer Service at tel. no. (02) 775-7014. You can also inquire via text messages. Just text: INSURE and send to 2960.

Inquirer Job Market Expo

THE INQUIRER Employment Expo 2003 at the SM Megatrade Hall was recently launched with over 50 participating companies and over 5,000 job opportunities available. The job fair offers free seminars and allows you to input your resumes into a resume reserve databank that will enable HR practitioners and employers to gain access to potential jobseekers. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon formally opening the employment expo are PDI AVP for classifieds and marketing Donald Patrick Lim (second from left) and PDI chair Marixi Prieto. Others in photo are (from left) PDI AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda, PDI VP for advertising Pepito Olarte, PDI HRD manager Jessie Rebustillo and Mr. Alex Prieto.

HUNDREDS of job seekers take a peek at possible employment opportunities as the 2nd Job Market Expo of the Philippine Daily Inquirer reels of at the SM Megatrade Hall. Today is the last day of the job fair.

CALBAYOG CLERGY IN CONCERT

The Clergy of the Diocese of Calbayog once again brings to the public an evening of faith, music and laughter. Into their 10th and 11th concert, scheduled on Nov. 6 and 8 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park and Meralco Theater, Pasig City respectively. They guarantee enjoyment not only to their fellow Samarnons but every music lover through a medley of Tagalog and Waray folksongs, Broadway and Beatles selection, and religious and inspirational pieces. Attendees of the concert will make them benefactors and partners in the clergy's dream of reconstructing their Centennial Pastoral Center. For tickets and reservations, contact Chit Nachura at 433-7544 or 0918-9366570; lawyer Egbert Singzon at 631-7140 or 0916-5778261; Msgr. Albert Songco at 426-2701 loc 6619 or 0919-3502072.

LA SALLE WINS 2ND PLACE AT ROBOTICS OLYMPIAD

The La Salle Greenhills robotics team won 2nd place over-all during the 2nd Philippine Robotics Olympiad at Alabang Town Center last Oct. 3. The team composed of (from left) Paolo Aquino, Kyle Mina and Emmanuel Peña will represent the Philippines at the 5th International Robotics Olympiad at Seoul, Korea on Nov. 6 to 9. They will be accompanied by their coach Gilbert Zamora (back).

ProductFILES

Mama Sita's new logo

MAMA Sita's now sports a contemporary look. A new image that brings together the unique qualities of naturalness, heritage and Filipino ingenuity, while projecting change that suggests a healthier lifestyle for its consumers.

The new logo bears the stylized sketched face of Mama Sita's, framed by a coin-like heirloom crown with a coconut tree and the Philippine islands beside it - symbols depicting the tree of life and products made by Pinoys. The red and gold colors denote richness and great value. The graphics which represent nature, emphasize the fact that Mama Sita's uses only the best and safest ingredients. Its products are thoroughly tested to conform to health standards.

To conform with this new image, Mama Sita's also introduces two slogans geared towards two specific markets: "Minanang Sarap, Natural na Sangkap" for local Filipinos who favor the traditional dishes like tocino, kare-kare, sinigang, etc.; and "Natural Flavors, Heirloom Recipes" for the global Pinoy who love fusion foods as well as Oriental and international cuisine.

The transformation also connotes a refocusing of Mama Sita's foothold on the local market and strengthening its presence in majority of the country's households. Marigold Commodities Corp, its parent company reaffirms its corporate mission to produce a variety of products at competitive prices without compromising quality over profits.

BITS Clips

Live By Request on Tour

PLDT myMUSIC sets the pace in the local music scene once again with acoustic music. Touted as the top acoustic artists today, Nina, Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante are expected to wow the audience with an acoustic event entitled "Live by Request on Tour." The Tour kicked off last Oct. 23 in Davao, it will then culminate in a big show at the Baguio Convention Center on November 21. By just dialing 1-908-MYMUSIC or 1-908-6968742, callers can win tickets to the events or better yet, VIP passes to meet and greet the artists backstage. 1908-mymusic can be dialed from any PLDT postpaid phone with NDD, Touch Card, Fonkard Plus and Telesulit, or through Smart, and Talk 'N Text cellphones. The PLDT myMUSIC Live By Request on tour is presented by Penshoppe along with Cebu Pacific, the official airline, Level-up games, Apo View Hotel, Killerbee Davao and Cebu and Mix FM Davao.

PSLIS study tour

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) announces its study tour to Malaysia with side trip to Sentosa, Singapore via Subic Bay on Nov. 26 to 28. The itinerary includes visit to various educational institution and entertainment places. For further inquiries you may contact 724-1994;527-9672;931-1295;(0919)791-0021;(0917)826-6929;(0916)712-0341.

Magical Halloween

CELEBRATE a magical masquerade this Halloween. A costume contest entitled "Halloween Magic" will be held on Oct. 31 at the Carousel Court, Level 2 of Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang. Open to children 3 to 12 years of age, participants will parade as their favorite fairy tale characters for a chance to win lots of prizes. To join, registration forms are available at the customer service. Simply present a P500 minimum single receipt from any participating kid's store or purchase one sheet of 10 ride tickets at Pixie Forest, X-Site, Junction Express, Kiddo Driving Skool or Grand Carousel from Oct. 15 to 31. For ticket purchase, registration forms shall be given at the ticket booths. Participants should come in full costume to qualify in the contest. Registration starts at 12 noon, Oct. 31. Show starts promptly at 2 p.m. A mallwide Trick or Treat is scheduled from 5 p.m. onwards.

Jollibee, Globe promo

UNTIL Oct. 31, every purchase of Globe's Hi-Memory Prepaid SIM entitles you to your favorite two-piece Chickenjoy Value Meal or a Regular Yum and Spaghetti Value Meal for free. Just make your first call and wait for the SMS message from 2977. Show your Globe Handyphone with the text message to any Jollibee store to redeem your free langhap-sarap Jollibee meal. With this innovative tie-up, 'buhay Jollibee ay lalong sumasarap' by being connected with people you love and need to get in touch with.

New GM for Motorola's handset business in SE Asia

SCOTT Durchslag, corporate vice president of strategy and business development, for Motorola's Personal Communications Sector (PCS), will lead PCS's operations in South East Asia, it was announced in Singapore. In his new role as General Manager for PCS, Mr Durchslag will be based at the company's South East Asia headquarters in Singapore.

Hired in May 2002, until now he has been responsible for defining PCS's vision, determining its competitive strategy, negotiating strategic partnerships and transactions, as well as running its global intellectual property business. In that capacity he has led a number of ground-breaking initiatives that include the acquisition of 4th Pass, a Seattle-based software company considered as the leader in the mobile content provisioning space. He is also responsible for the formation of a strategic alliance with Microsoft, and oversaw development of Motorola's recently announced MPx200 smart phone based on Microsoft's Mobile Windows operating system.

Before joining Motorola, Scott Durchslag (37), was an entrepreneur in a pioneering enterprise software start-up in the rapidly growing Web Services space, and was managing director at the Chasm Group, where he counseled leading technology companies in Silicon Valley on their go-to-market strategies. His career started at McKinsey & Co, the world's leading international management consultancy, where he made considerable impact as the firm's youngest Managing Partner in its history and turned around their operations in Taiwan. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School and graduated phi beta kappa from the University of Chicago.

Scott is no stranger to Asia. During his 8 years with McKinsey, he moved from New York City to India, Kuala Lumpur and Taiwan. He founded McKinsey's Asian High Technology Practice and advised the Prime Minister of Malaysia on the creation of its successful Multimedia Super Corridor. Scott also has a record of distinctive client impact serving leading telecoms and technology companies in the United States and across Asia.

DURCHSLAG

Commenting on his appointment, he said, "I have high respect for the markets and the people of South East Asia and am truly delighted to be back in the region in my new role as GM of Motorola's biggest business. PCS makes a huge impact on Motorola's overall brand presence through the millions of handsets carried by consumers in all the markets I will serve, from Thailand to Australia. I am proud to be leading this diverse team, and I plan to invest in our people, our operator partners, and our distributors so that Motorola will reap considerable returns and consumers will enjoy the best possible range of handsets, accessories and services."

ABS-CBN DROPS BY INQUIRER OFFICE

Leading media company ABS-CBN's execs learned the ropes of newspaper process in a recent tour of the offices and printing press of PDI. Beaming in photo are ABS writer John Unson, Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, ABS-CBN VP for government, corporate affairs and PR Maloli Espinosa-Manalastas, Inquirer corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, ABS-CBN PR officer Rikka Dylim and PR director Leah Gatdula.

Pfizer introduces breakthrough product in oral care

PFIZER Consumer Healthcare recently introduced in the local market a revolutionary, portable oral care product that gives consumers a clean mouth feeling, anytime, anywhere.

Cool Mint Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips are translucent, ultra-thin strips about the size of a postage stamp that dissolve instantly on the tongue, killing 99.9 percent of odor-causing bacteria within 30 seconds, and last for up to 90 minutes.

"Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips mark the beginning of an exciting and innovative new chapter in the 120-year history of Listerine," said Rogelio la O' Jr., regional director for the Philippines and Greater China of Pfizer Consumer Healthcare.

"In addition to meeting the needs of our current, dedicated oral care consumers, we are excited to be able to expand the Listerine franchise to consumers looking for an 'on-the-go' solution."

Research findings of clinical and laboratory studies supporting the benefits of this revolutionary new product were first presented in April 2000 at the International/American Association for Dental Research Meeting in Washington D.C.

These studies have shown that the germ-killing ingredients present in Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips kill 99.9 percent of odor-causing bacteria within 30 seconds. In new studies, these oral care strips have also been clinically proven to reduce odor-causing bacteria on the tongue for up to 90 minutes and to reduce and control oral malodor for up to 90 minutes after only a single use.

Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips contain the powerful germ-killing ingredients of Listerine Antiseptic (thymol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, menthol). Unlike gums or mints which only mask bad breath, this is the first and only portable product that kills bad breath germs on contact. These germ-killing oral care strips are also sugar and calorie-free.

Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips provide consumers with germ-killing power in a radical, new product form. They are conveniently and easily dispensed from a tiny, ergonomic vial that is perfect for today's busy lifestyle.

According to la 'O, the product "fulfills a key consumer need. Whether for couples' first date or busy executives, it provides a portable, discreet option for a clean mouth feeling. Today's hectic lifestyle, coupled with consumers' demand for easy and convenient products, will help to drive this breakthrough new product."

Cool Mint Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips are the latest addition to the Listerine line of oral care products. Marketed by Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, the new product is now available at supermarkets, pharmacies and convenience stores in 24 strips pack priced at P85 and three 24 strips pack at P190.

CAMERA CLUB OF THE PHILS, HANDS ON MANILA SIGNING

Camera Club of the Philippines (CCP) signs a memorandum of agreement with Hands On Manila Foundation Inc (HOM) for the Holiday Card Gift Set and Donation Cards. In these cards, HOM features selected photos of the CCP that illustrate insightful images of the different social issues that we face today. These card sets also come with A Giving Guide for a Better Manila, a directory of Metro Manila non-profit organizations with their preferred donations this holiday season. A great gift idea for gift givers. For inquiries call 843-7044 or 843-531. In photo are (from left, seated): Antonio Lilles - member, CCP; Norlito Quimel - president, CCP; Wynn Wynn Ong - vice president, HOM; Nicole Fandino - assistant treasurer, HOM. (From left, standing): Paul Yan - corporate secretary, CCP; Emilio Davocol - creative director, CCP; Kiko Balagtas, treasurer, CCP; Bien Bautista - creative director, CCP; Lisa Crisostomo - executive director, HOM; Perrey Belen - administrative officer, HOM.

MISS TEEN SAN LORENZO 2003

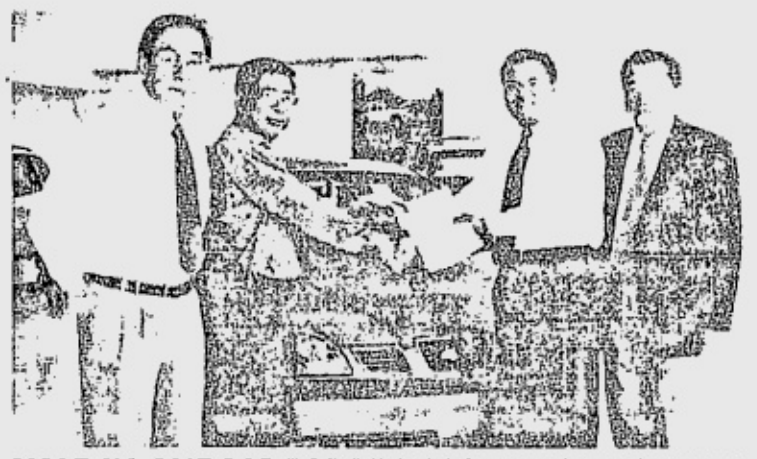
Photo shows Gian Carla Lumbao in her victory walk after bagging Ms Talent, Best in Gown and the title Miss San Lorenzo 2003. Miss Teen San Lorenzo is a yearly beauty pageant organized by the officers of Centro de San Lorenzo in Santa Rosa Laguna.

DOT launches Troy Awards

FOREIGN tourists' first impression of the country begins with the facilities initially in the airports. The memories they keep about the country they visited are related not only to the pleasure they had at the tourist attractions but also on the destination's services. Toilets which are pleasant and convenient are valued high since they indicate the nation's level of culture, breeding and the importance they give to visitors. In the perspective of the facility, the culture of clean public toilets can be established by how much we give it significance.

In line with this, the Department of Tourism has formulated a Tourism Recovery Plan. A component of this plan is known as the Toilet Recognition of the Year (Troy). This DOT-sponsored search shall be conducted in coordination with the Restroom Association of the Philippines (RAP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and tourism-oriented Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Awards shall be given to public toilets which meet the minimum requirements set by the Committee with 3, 4 or 5-star ratings based on their standards of excellence. It shall likewise be given to the LGUs who have undertaken excellent toilet facilities in their communities on the basis of sustainability and community involvement.

For more information, call the Department of Tourism at (02) 523-8411, loc. 171, 179, and 283. Or log on to www.wow Philippines.com.ph.



HOLE-IN-ONE CAR FOR MMCI GOLF TOURNAMENT

A 2004 Chevrolet Optra 4-door Sedan is the hole-in-one prize at the MCCI 43rd Foundation Golf Tournament on Nov. 7 at Valley Golf. Awarding the agreement is Raul Evangelista, general manager of GM Autoworld Shaw. From left are president Lirio Sandoval, of MCCI; president Tony Lara of Mandaluyong Business Foundation; Evangelista and PP Ernie Medina, tour chair.

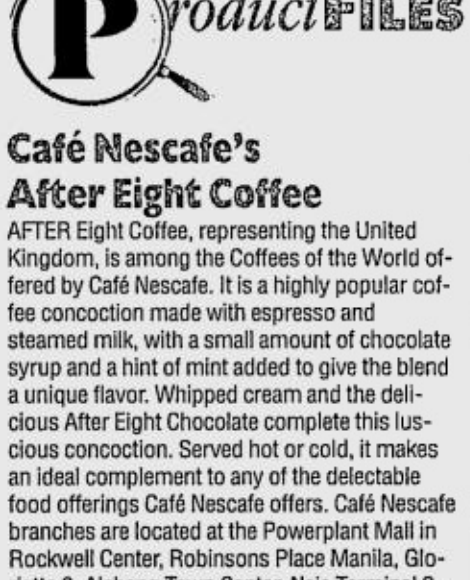
ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT EXECUTIVES GIVE COURTESY CALL

Ortigas Home Depot executives recently made a courtesy call to Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio. Ortigas Home Depot is the latest development in the hub of Ortigas CBD. Photo shows (from left) engineer Ruel Medina, Ley Construction; Kenneth Tung, OHD general manager; Veronica Chan, OHD director; former Mayor Cesar Ventura; Manuel Ley, Ley Construction; Victor Chan, OHD cosultant; Napoleon Co, OHD president; former mayor Vicente Eusebio and pasig mayor Soledad Eusebio (seated)

ProductFiles

Café Nescafe's After Eight Coffee

AFTER Eight Coffee, representing the United Kingdom, is among the Coffees of the World offered by Café Nescafe. It is a highly popular coffee concoction made with espresso and steamed milk, with a small amount of chocolate syrup and a hint of mint added to give the blend a unique flavor. Whipped cream and the delicious After Eight Chocolate complete this luscious concoction. Served hot or cold, it makes an ideal complement to any of the delectable food offerings Café Nescafe offers. Café Nescafe branches are located at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Naia Terminal 2, the City Lifestyle Building along Timog Avenue in Quezon City, and Robinsons Galleria.



BPI BAGS AWARD FROM LAND BANK

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) was named 'Most Outstanding Countryside Partner (micro, small and medium enterprise financing category)' during the recent Land Bank of the Philippines Awards. The event was held in honor of the participating financial institutions and sub-borrowers of the Countryside Loan Fund I, II, III and Agricultural Loan Fund. Photo shows (2nd from left) BPI executive vice president Gil Buenaventura and senior vice president Eduardo Jose Jr. receiving the award from Land Bank president Gary Teves (right) while BSP deputy governor Alberto Reyes (left) looks on.

PSBP INDUCTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pearl S. Buck Foundation-Phils Inc (PSBP), a non-government organization that assists underprivileged children, recently inducted its officers at Annabel's Restaurant in Quezon City. Janet Mintzer, CEO and president of Pearl S. Buck Int'l Inc led the installation of PSBP's first batch of board of trustees. In photo (from left) Veronica Villavicencio, Marilyn Manuel, Veronica Tapia-Merk, Rep. James Gordon, Commissioner Myrna Yao and Janet Mintzer. Myrna Yao will be the president for the newly nationalized PSBP.

ANZCHAM SPONSORS SME TRADE FAIR

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay (3rd from left) leads the dignitaries as they cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the recent opening of the 2nd SME Trade Fair, sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, at the NBC Also in photo are (from left): ambassador Ruth Pearce of Australia; Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga; Binay; Jannine McCabe, deputy head of Mission of New Zealand; Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho and US amabassador Francis Ricciardone.

HANKOOK TIRE, MICHELIN GROUP PARTNERSHIP

Hankook Tire has entered a strategic alliance with the Michelin Group, one of the world's tire industry's 'big three'. The partnership will enable each company to utilize the relative strengths of the other to improve market competitiveness, while maintaining a strategic focus on areas where they have built up an advantage. Shown are the key officers of both companies.

ULTRA BYKES, MIGUEL BICHARA SIGN PARTNERSHIP

Ultra Bykes Network has extended a sponsorship partnership with Miguel Bichara, one of the promising racers of the Shell advance Superbike Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Bichara a leading member of Club200 riders, will be provided with a 1000cc Aprilia RSV Mille superbike which will be set up to Bichara's requirements intended for racing BRC. Bichara currently owns a 2002 Aprilia RSV1000Mille 'R'. In photo are Miguel Bichara (left, seated) and Tony Tanda (right) shaking hands after signing the sponsorship agreement in which Ultra Bykes will provide Bichara a top class racing bike.

BTS Clips

Nina's birthday concert

THE SOUL siren Nina celebrates her birthday tonight at the Music Museum, 8:30 p.m. via a birthday concert. Joining her are Asap buddies Bituin Escalante, Ana Fegi, Akafellas, her brother King and other suprise performers. Tickets are at P1,000, P800 and P500. For inquiries, contact Ticketworld, 891-5610; Music Museum, 721-6726 or 721-0635 and at Megamedia, 688-0707 or 688-0808. Sponsors are World Goodies, Levi's, PLDT, Colgate, Moby Hotdog, Carefree, Caltex, Vortex, Nescafe, Athena, Nesvita, Pearl of the Pacific Boracay, The Legend Hotel, Ysa Skin Care, Discovery Suites, Victoria's Cameo, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Bagaberde, Vacation Club Int'l, Discovery Spa, Cora's Derm Centre, R&J Home of Butterflies, and Philippine Daily Inquirer.

MFI scholars to graduate

THE 18TH batch of scholars of Meralco Foundation Institute, composed of 150 students in technical courses and 28 in IT (Information Technology), will hold its graduation exercises on Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m. to be held at the Aguinaldo Theater in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. This year's commencement exercise will coincide with Meralco Foundation Inc's (MFI) 30th anniversary. Honor graduates will be awarded medals of excellence. Participating companies who sponsored scholars and those who admitted them for OJT will be awarded plaques of appreciation.

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Deadline of submission of application is on **04 November 2003**.

BUSINESS

Political woes drag down peso value

By Clarissa S. Batino

EXCLUDING other factors, political uncertainties alone have dragged down the value of the peso by 3 to 4 to the dollar, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

This means that without the political concerns, the peso should be trading at only about 51-52 to $1, and not at more than 55.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that during "less interesting times," the peso was trading at only 12 below the Thai baht. At that level, the peso was considered very competitive, he said.

Since political and peace and order concerns started dominating the financial market, the differential widened to P15 to P16. The Thai baht has been trading below 40 to a dollar.

Even when the peso rebounded yesterday to 55.24 to $1, from 55.35 on Tuesday, the gap between the local currency and the Thai baht remained substantial.

The peso is the worst-performing currency in the region on a year-to-date basis.

It was, however, one of the gainers in yesterday's trading after it recovered 0.2 percent of the value previously lost.

Turnover was lower at $177.5 million than $213.5 million on Tuesday when traders saw the BSP selling as much as $30 million at the spot market. Buenaventura said the BSP did not sell dollars yesterday.

The baht yesterday closed at 39.92 to a dollar. The Thai currency used to trade closer to 45 to $1.

"Clearly, all these developments have contributed to a more expensive dollar for us. We are paying a political premium for the risks. Our normal differential with the baht is P12 and now it is more than P15," said the central bank chief at the sidelines of the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines meeting yesterday.

Still, Buenaventura is confident that the peso will rebound to the 54 to $1 level by the end of the year in anticipation of stronger dollar remittances from offshore Filipino workers.

However, some currency analysts see no positive factor that can trigger the peso recovery.

Some market players see the peso hitting P56 by year-end and P57 before the May 2004 elections.

"You cannot discount our OFW remittance which is stronger than what we originally anticipated and this has helped us offset the slowdown in exports," he said.

Buenaventura said the Philippines was beset with one interesting event after another.

FILIPINOS queued to sell their US dollars and other foreign currencies at a moneychanger shop in Manila last Tuesday when the peso dropped near its all-time low as it traded 55.512 to the US dollar. This was due to the controversy over attempts to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide on allegations of graft increasing concerns over the rising political risks in the country. AFP

LGUs urged to issue anti-piracy rules

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL government units were urged to pass an ordinance that would strictly enforce the ban on the distribution of counterfeit products in the market to help the government in its efforts to have the country removed from the United States' watch list of intellectual property rights violators.

The Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Action Panel (IPREAP), a group composed of various government enforcement agencies and private business groups, has come up with a model ordinance that imposes penalties and individuals found distributing fake products.

Emma Francisco, director general of the Intellectual Property Office, said the passage of such an ordinance could be one of the factors that could convince the US Trade Representative Office to remove the Philippines from the USTR watch list.

Under the suggested ordinance, a local government's licensing division will be given the power to inspect operations of any enterprise and to cancel business permits should it find the establishment selling fake products. The model ordinance also provides for the penalties that will be imposed on violators.

Home, Sky Cable expected to complete consolidation soon

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH the recent signing of a debt restructuring agreement with its creditors, Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. expressed optimism that a complete consolidation with SkyCable Central CATV Inc. could take place anytime soon.

"We are committed to the consolidation of the cable television businesses of Home Cable and Sky Cable through Beyond Cable (Holdings Inc.), and expect that the final steps of the consolidation process will work out smoothly as planned," Home Cable president Ray Espinosa said in a statement yesterday.

Home Cable and SkyCable, in accordance with a master consolidation agreement signed in 2001, had started consolidating their operations under the Beyond Cable consortium.

However, the restructuring of P2.5 billion in combined debts posed a major hurdle to achieving a full consolidation.

After months of negotiations, the Beyond Cable consortium on Oct. 17 finally signed a memorandum of agreement with majority of Home Cable and SkyCable's creditors, paving the way for an actual debt restructuring agreement as well as the complete consolidation of the two firms.

Equitable-PCI Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Development Bank of the Philippines have the biggest loan exposures in the two cable operators.

Espinosa said the full consolidation of the two entities would make both companies more efficient and viable in the long term.

As soon as Beyond Cable's debts are restructured, a third-party investor can come in to help raise the $30 million that the dominant cable firm needs to offer tiered programming to its subscribers.

"The equity call is $30 million. All shareholders that will want to participate can put in their money. The remainder will (be shouldered) by the new investor," SkyCable chair Eugenio Lopez III said in an earlier interview.

He said there was already an investor that would come in as soon as the cable firm's debts were restructured.

The $30 million that existing and new shareholders needed to put in would be used to encrypt the cable firm's program signals as well as to purchase decoder boxes for its subscribers.

DON'T MISS IT!

The

Management Association of the Philippines

invites CEOs, COOs, management executives and decision makers to the

2nd MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

on

4 November 2003, 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La

Conference Theme:

"NEW IDEAS TO OUST OLD MINDSETS"
(Solutions in Tough Times)

In tough times, executives are finding themselves digging their heels deep, in search of NEW IDEAS. The only real wealth is found in NEW IDEAS and somebody willing to act on it. Every good leader is also a learner. The speakers will share NEW IDEAS that will bring new revelation and opportunity as well as equip us to make a difference in the business world!

Dr. Rolando B. Hortaleza, Chairman and CEO of Splash Corporation, will be one of the speakers for the session on "If David Can Beat Goliath, So Can You". He was the 1997 Agora Awardee for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship for Large Scale Category and the 1999 TOYM (Ten Oustanding Young Men) awardee for Business Entrepreneurship.

SPEAKERS:
Mr. DOMINIC BARTON, *Chairman for Asia Pacific Practice, McKinsey & Co.*
Mr. HOWARD D. BELTON, *Chair /CEO, Unilever Philippines, Inc.*
Mr. AHMED REDA CHAMI, *Chair, Microsoft Asia Pacific*
Mr. JOEY A. GURANGO, *CEO, Webworks OS, Inc.*
Mr. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, *Chair / CEO, Splash Corporation*
Ms. CHIT U. JUAN, *President/CEO, Figaro Coffee Company*
Ms. LOIDA NICOLAS-LEWIS, *Chair/ CEO, TLC Beatrice Int'l Holdings*
Mr. NAPOLEON L. NAZARENO, *President, Smart Communications, Inc.*
Ms. BERNADINE T. SIY, *President/ CEO, Roasters Philippines, Inc.*
Mr. MATT THOMPSON, *Director-Technology Outreach, Sun Microsystems*

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please contact the MAP Secretariat at
751-1149 to 52 or
Conference Committee Chair
Franco G. del Rosario
at <sixsigma@itextron.com>

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Plenty of treats and a few tricks this Halloween season

DINING OUT

SUPER Bowl of China and Big Buddha Restaurant offer Halloween treats. Guests who come in on Oct. 31 can vote for their favorite server in costume. Kids who come in their Halloween best will receive special prizes. Super Bowl of China restaurants are located on Jupiter St., Makati; Megastrip of Megamall; Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; and Chefs Avenue, Festival Supermall, Alabang. Big Buddha Restaurant is located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant treats children to free kiddie meals on Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Kids, 10 years and below, who come in Halloween costumes at all Burgoo outlets will get Chicken Tender Fries, Mini Pizza and Spaghetti with Meat Sauce for every order of any adult meal. Burgoo is located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Dilliman, QC; 2/L Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; and 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 9277424, 6875254, 8981815 to 18.

TGI Friday's, Italianni's and **Outback Restaurant** treat kids on Oct. 31. Children who come in Halloween costumes will be given free kiddie meals and free passes from Time Zone at Friday's, located at Glorietta 3, Robinsons Place Manila, Alabang Town Center, Hotel Rembrandt in QC and The Brickroad in Sta. Lucia East. Italianni's at Greenbelt 2 offer kiddie meals, ice cream and Time Zone passes to children in costume. At Outback, all kids in Halloween garb will get free Joey meals and ice cream at 6-7 p.m. Outback is located at Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center and Libis in QC.

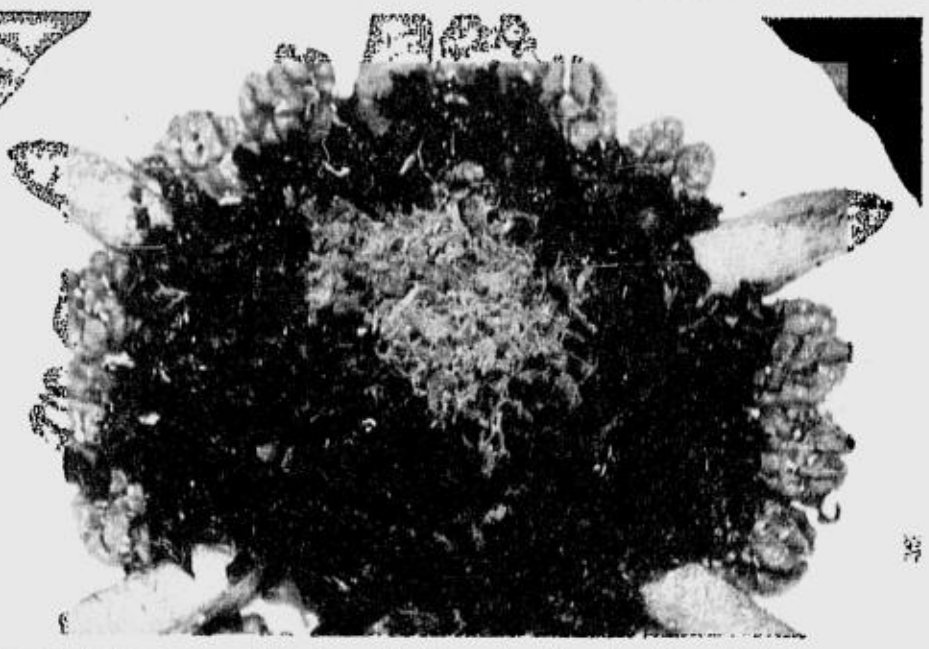
EDSA Shangri-La's Garden Cafe presents Halloween Seafood Night on Oct. 31. Feast on oysters, tuna, shrimps and a grill station with lobsters and blue marlin. There are also chili crabs, sashimi, tempura, sushi and salmon. Call 6347373/6338888.

TRIPLE V Express presents Lunch and Dinner Boom Time, where any two dishes plus rice and soup are available for P79. Meals include pork and chicken barbecue, *menudo*, *pininyahang manok*, Bicol express, sweet and sour meatballs, *caracol tilapia*, chicken *afritada*, pork *humba*, chopsuey, chicken curry, *bangus* with *tausi*, *pancit canton*, pork *adobo* and honey chicken. Boom Time meals are available at the 2/L SM Megamall, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and 6 p.m. onward. Call 6342485.

HYATT Regency Manila's Tempura Misono presents Salmon Kabutoni, Fresh Sea Urchin, Lobster Thermidore, oysters, tempura, sushi and sashimi. A fortune reader festival will also be featured on Oct. 31. Call 8331234.

ICE Monster dessert bar offers finely shaved ice with milk and syrup topped with chunks of fresh fruit. Fruit toppings include kiwi, strawberry, apples, mango, banana, papaya and *langka*. There are also special toppings like brownie fudge, cookies and cream, coffee jelly, almond black *gulaman* and red bean. Ice Monster has outlets at Food Choices Greenbelt 3, Food Choices Glorietta 4, 4/L Robinsons Galleria, Food Choices Alabang Town Center and J. Abad Santos St. near Wilson St., San Juan.

THE PENINSULA Manila's Spices Restaurant will mark Festival of Lights on Nov. 8. The event will feature a special set menu of Thai spring roll, minced shrimp and sweet corn in crispy shell, spicy beef salad, chicken wrapped in *pandan* leaves, spicy Thai seafood soup flavored with lemon grass, coriander, chili, *galanggal*, parsley and kaffir lime, crisp-fried garoupa in tamarind-chili sauce, Phad Thai, duck curry and steamed jasmine rice and fresh mango and sticky rice. Call 8872888/8103456.

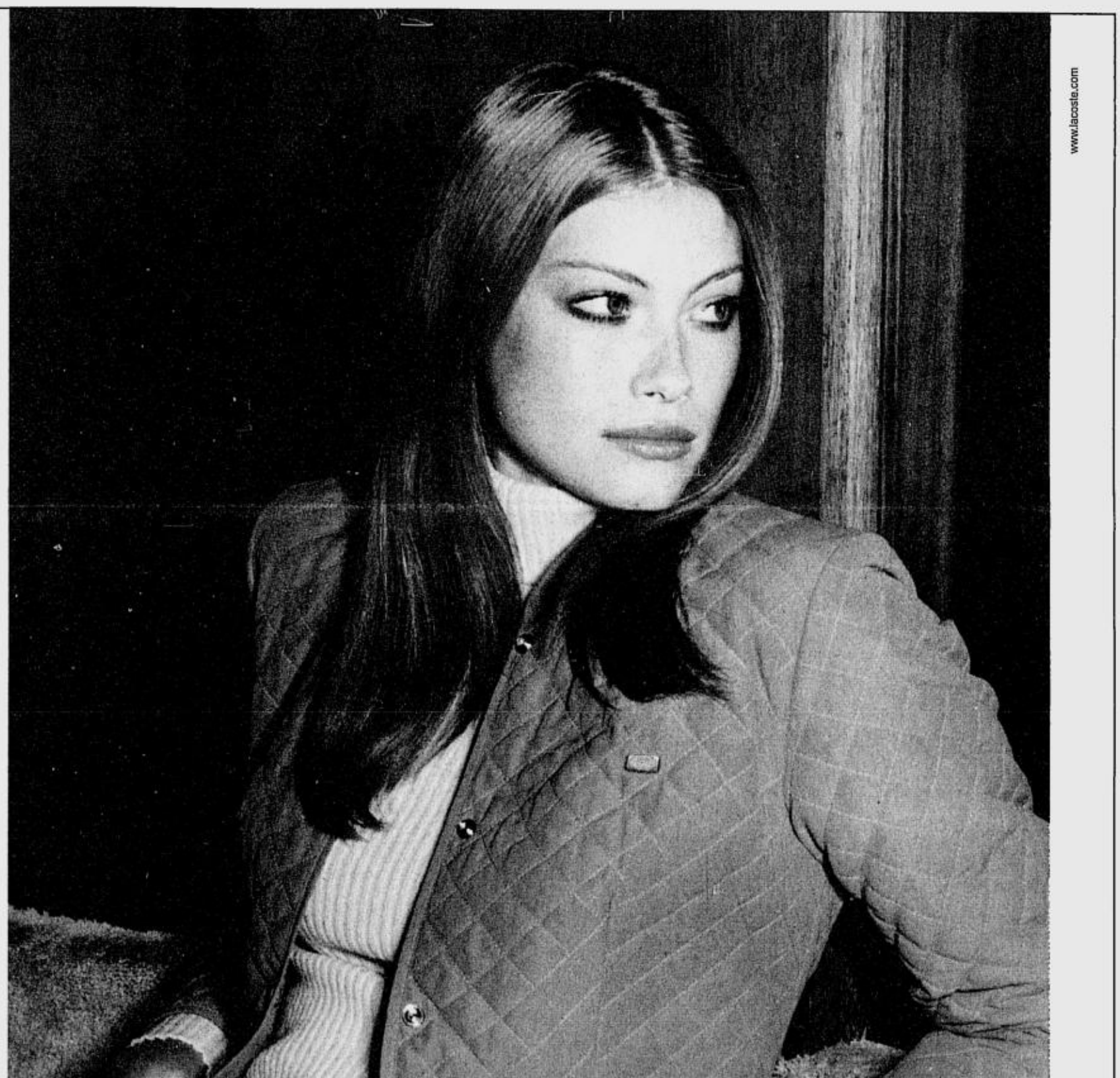


PEKING Garden has an ongoing weekday lunch promo, Luncheon Meet Premium Menu for 12 every Monday to Friday. This 10-course set menu includes Peking duck, cold cut combination, cold chicken in rice wine sauce, seafood potage, prawns with sweet and spicy sauce, scrambled egg with minced fish and dried scallop, crispy vegetables, conpoy with bamboo shoots and walnuts, pepper-corn duck bones, fried rice, steamed supreme soup and pork dumpling and chilled almond jelly with fruit cocktail. Peking Garden is at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 8179066 to 67/8179130.

ICE Monster's Almond-Black Gulaman Ice

KULINARYA Kitchen in Power Plant, Rockwell offers a promo until Nov. 6. By answering the Guest Satisfaction Survey, you can have the chance to win a special seven-course Christmas degustacion dinner for four. Kulinarya specialties include gamberi, spicy gambas on herb pasta, crab and mango salad and Italian sausage pasta.

MAX'S offers Sizzling Sweet and Spicy Chicken, Pancit Canton, Sinigang na Baboy, Sinigang na Hipon, Kare-Kare, Chopsuey, Halo-Halo and Buko Pandan.



LACOSTE

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · RUSTAN'S CUBAO · RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA
AYALA CENTER, CEBU · CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT 3 · ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL)

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

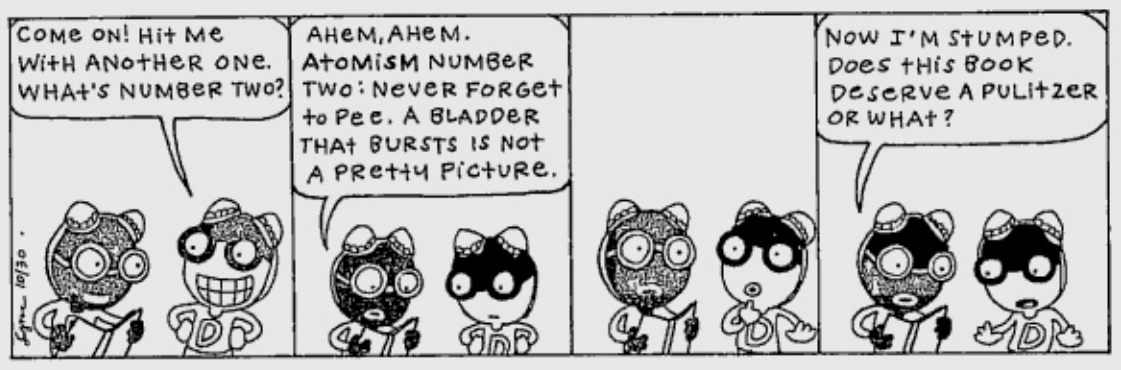
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You believe in being well-prepared; therefore, you do your homework before you set out on your journeys in life. Challenges never stop you. You know how to successfully direct the efforts of others. Fortunately, you can lead, but you can also follow. Your confidence inspires others. This year you'll finish a nine-year cycle in your life.
Birthdate of: Nia Long, actress; John Adams, American president; Grace Slick, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an extremely poor day to decide how to share possessions or responsibilities. Your thinking is so fuzzy, you could give away the farm. (Oops.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a poor day to talk to the boss or any other authority figure in your life. You could easily be misunderstood. Furthermore, it's hard to defend yourself today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a dicey day at work, because communications are confused. In fact, some people are deceitful. Take nothing at face value. Double-check everything.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might find yourself idealizing other people or situations today. You're full of "pie in the sky" thoughts. That's OK, but dissatisfaction with what you have will make you unhappy.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discussions with partners and family members are crazy today. They're like two ships passing in the night. Avoid important topics. Just take care of the basics.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Issues at work are subject to confusion today. Somebody might try to dodge important issues. You might feel tempted to lie rather than admit to something. (Best to just say nothing.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're tempted today to buy something that is gorgeous and luxurious. I hate to tell you this: Don't do it. Not today. You've got stars in your eyes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Clarity is difficult today. Confusion, misrepresentation and distortion of the truth are more likely. That's why this is a poor day for important family discussions.

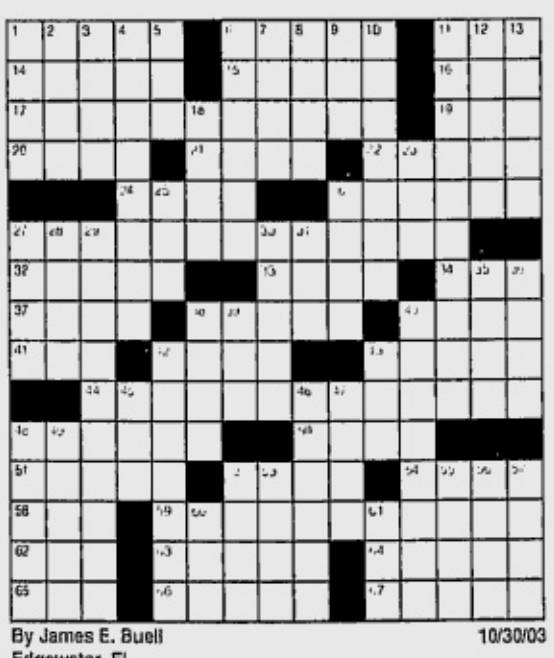
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might enjoy studying religious, spiritual or mystical subjects today. You love to learn new things, and today your mind is more open to grasp touchy-feely ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day to have important discussions about business, finance and commerce. It's even a poor day to shop. It's as if you have Vaseline on your lens—no clarity. (Yikes!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Definitely do not make any important suggestions to your boss today. Ironically, you could be the victim of some kind of lie or misrepresentation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to explore esoteric, off-the-wall ideas and subjects. However, it's a terrible day to do important business and financial transactions. Your thinking is full of fantasy.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
10/30/03

ACROSS
1 Film
6 Smudge
11 Winged mammal
14 Susan Lucci role
15 Big dipper
16 Tavern quaff
17 Persevere
19 Chip off the old block
20 Venetian piece
21 Approve
22 In the buff
24 Reed in the winds
26 Emphasis
27 Tolerate
32 Gangling
33 Child's play
34 Sack
37 Circle sections
38 Market value
40 Travel before takeoff
41 Scoffer's comment
42 Close
43 Sioux __, SD
44 Take one's medicine bravely
48 Prime
50 Jazz pianist Thelonious
51 John Smith, perhaps
52 Japanese wrestling
54 Pillow cover
58 __ and yang
59 Endure
62 Disney dwarf
63 Walk on air
64 Bumps and bruises
65 Extreme degree
66 Ledger entry
67 Celebrity Winfrey

DOWN
1 Part of YMCA
2 City south of Moscow
3 Brawny rival
4 Large grippers
5 Ring bearer?
6 Quenched
7 Writer Angelou
8 Small whirlpool
9 The Greatest
10 Opposite of launch
11 Naismith's game
12 Burn soothers
13 Looks after
18 In due time
23 Jackie's Onassis
25 Wide inlet
26 Window part
27 Snatch
28 __ avis
29 Slowly but surely
30 Pullman bed
31 Have a hero
35 Wheels' connection
36 Nitty-gritty
38 Milk byproduct
39 Loophole
40 Converse on the job?
42 Cached
43 Amusement
45 Neighbor of Mont.
46 NFL running back Smith
47 Good fortune
48 Composer Franz Joseph
49 T.S. or George
52 Slight
53 Wrinkled fruit
55 Hamburg mister
56 Square measure
57 Screen material
60 Hatchet relative
61 General on a Chinese menu

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	O	P	E		O	W	E	S		B	C	D	E
A	L	F	I	E		S	H	A	H		I	R	O	N
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A	A	H	S		C	E	L	S		L	I	S	T	S
H	R	E		G	A	O	L		D	A	D	S		
		F	A	L	A		B	E	A	N		T	H	E
A	M	I	N	O		F	E	L	T		T	H	A	T
C	O	R	N	B	A	L	L	S	A	W	S	E	T	C
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O	G	E	E		S	E	A	T		B	O	O	N	E
N	A	R	D		H	A	T	E		S	A	N	E	R

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10/30/03

Easy meals to tote along

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

WHEN we go to the cemetery this week to honor our dead with flowers, candles and prayers, most of us will be bringing food for our lunch and *merienda*. The food we prepare must not spoil easily. Equally important, it must be easy to pack and serve to family and friends.

Here we have Chinese Paella, a simplified version of the "kiampong," Chicken Teriyaki as an alternative to the *adobo*, and Banana Cake.

Chinese Paella

1 whole chicken sliced into serving portions
Marinade:
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp pounded garlic
¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp white sugar
1 tsp grated ginger
oil for frying
¼ c corn oil
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
1 ¼ c sliced red onions
3 pcs Chinese sausage, sliced diagonally
6 pcs dried shiitake mushrooms, soaked until soft, washed and cut into thin strips
3 c raw rice, washed (*dinorado* variety)
¼ c plus 2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp plus 1 tsp sesame oil
4-4 ½ c water or chicken stock
Topping:
Spring onions, chopped finely
Cooked scrambled eggs, sliced into thin strips
Fried peanuts with the skin on

Marinade the chicken for at least 30 minutes. Fry until golden but not necessarily done. Set aside.

In a big wok, heat ¼ c corn oil. Add garlic and onions, sauté until onions are wilted. Then add sliced Chinese sausage and mushrooms.

Mix well. Sauté for a few minutes until fat oozes from the *chorizo*. Add the fried chicken. Pour in rice and mix well. Pour in soy sauce, sesame oil and pepper. Then, pour in one cup of chicken stock. Keep on stirring until the rice has absorbed the liquid. Pour in three cups more of the stock and allow to boil. Transfer to a rice cooker and cook until done. Add more water if necessary.

Transfer the rice to a serving platter. Garnish with chopped spring onions, scrambled eggs and fried peanuts.

Banana Cake with Choco Chips and Walnuts

1 c well-mashed ripe bananas
¾ c corn oil
2 whole eggs (1/2 c)
½ tsp banana extract (optional)
½ c white sugar
½ c well-packed dark brown sugar
1 ½ c sifted all-purpose flour
1 tsp sifted baking soda
1 tsp sifted baking powder
1 tsp salt
½ tsp cinnamon powder
¼ tsp ground nutmeg
1 c quick cooking oatmeal
½ c desiccated coconut
Topping:
¼ c coarsely chopped semisweet chocolate
¼ c coarsely chopped walnuts or cashew

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Line the bottom of two medium loaf pans (7x4 inches) with baking paper. Grease the sides of the pan and the paper on the bottom of the pan with shortening. Dust the greased areas with flour. Tap off excess. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, pour in the following ingredients—bananas, corn oil, eggs and banana extract. Beat with a wire whip until blended. Pour in the remaining dry ingredients. Beat with a wire whip until no trace of flour is visible.

Divide the cake batter equally among the prepared baking pans. Top with chocolate and walnuts. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until a cake tester inserted in the center of the pan comes out absolutely clean.

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

MONDAY

Cereal and milk
Vienna sausage
Pan de sal
Coffee, iced tea, fruit juice

Clear soup
Daing na bangus
Relleno ng talong
Rice
Lanzones

Chicken *adobo* with pineapple bits
Pechay *guisado*
Rice
Fruit gelatin

TUESDAY

Ham and cheese omelette
Loaf bread
Butter and cheese spread
Coffee or hot chocolate
Atis

Instant corn soup
Paksiw na pata
Chinese paella
Canned lychee with ice

Patola with misua
Fried fish with sweet and sour sauce
Rice
Rambutan

WEDNESDAY

Oatmeal
Pan de sal
Tuna sandwich spread
Coffee or fruit juice
Bananas and yogurt

Green salad with garlic dressing
Callos
Rice
Brazo de Mercedes

Chicken teriyaki
Guisadong baby bokchoy
Rice
Almond jelly

THURSDAY

Hotcake with butter and syrup
Pan-grilled spam or bacon
Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea
Papaya

Tahong soup
Pinakbet
Rice
Leche flan

Coleslaw
Beef steak with onion rings
Rice
Fresh fruit platter

FRIDAY

Garlic rice
Tocino
Fried eggs
Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice

Instant cream of mushroom soup
Pancit canton
Fried chicken wings
Nata de coco

Nilagang baka
Rice
Minatamis na saba

SATURDAY

Chicken arroz caldo
Coffee, iced tea or fruit juice
Bananas with cottage cheese

Caesar salad
Beef salpicado
Gambas
Rice
Banana cake

Instant hot and sour soup
Steamed fish
Lumpiang shanghai
Fried rice
Hopia

SUNDAY

Churros or donuts
Hotdog or spicy sausage
Hot coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea
Fresh fruit platter

Macaroni soup
Paella
Lechon kawali
Canonigo

Buttered vegetables
Roast chicken
Pasta carbonara
Carrot cake

Chicken Teriyaki

8 chicken thighs or 1 whole chicken cut-up
1/3 c soy sauce
1/3 c unsweetened pineapple juice
1/3 c rice wine
¼ c white sugar
2 tbsp honey
1 tsp grated ginger
1 tbsp cornstarch
3 tbsp *calamansi* juice
1/3 c chopped spring onions

In a medium saucepan combine the following ingredients—soy sauce, pineapple juice, rice wine, white sugar, honey and ginger. Cover the saucepan and place over medium heat. Allow to boil. As soon as the mixture boils, remove the cover then add all of the chicken. Allow to boil again and then simmer until the chicken is done.

Remove about half a cup of the liquid from the saucepan and allow to cool briefly in a bowl. Add the cornstarch and mix vigorously to dissolve completely. Add to the chicken and simmer for five minutes more or until the sauce becomes slightly thick.

Turn off the heat and stir in the *calamansi* juice. Transfer to a platter, then sprinkle the spring onions all over.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City and at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati.

Call 7217735 or e mail dorothycookingschool@yahoo.com

Tips on using butter

ANCHOR Butter user, chef Gene Gonzalez, says using butter substitutes in cooking can affect taste.

Other things to remember:

- Know when to use salted and unsalted butter.
- Always heat butter before using to bring out its flavor. Melt using low temperature settings, taking care not to burn it.
- Use butter to give sauces a rich taste and glossy appearance.
- Thaw only enough butter for immediate use. Take butter out of the refrigerator 30 minutes before serving.

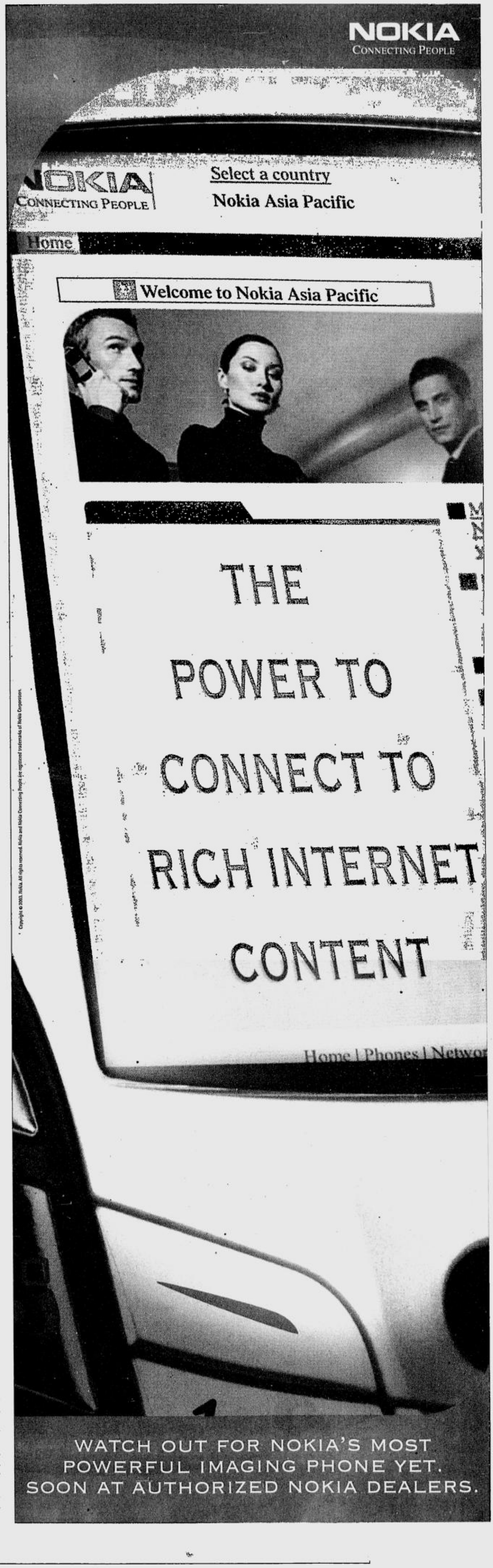
Chocolate Almond Cake (serves 8)

12 egg white
225 g white sugar
225 g ground almond
25 g corn flour
20 g flour
Chocolate for coating:
250 g dark chocolate
10 g unsalted Anchor Butter
170 ml Anchor Whipping Cream
200 g melted chocolate

To make sponge, whisk egg white and sugar to a meringue in a mixing bowl. Fold in ground almond, corn flour and flour. Spread onto baking tray. Bake at 200°C for 10 minutes.

For chocolate coating, boil whipping cream in saucepan. Mix chocolate and butter in a mixing bowl. Pour whipped cream into chocolate butter mixture and stir until well mixed.

To assemble, cut sponge into round shape. Spread each layer with chocolate coating. Pour melted chocolate to cover cake.



Recipes for the haunting season

MAKE your Halloween menu more wicked and wacky with the following easy-to-prepare recipes from San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center.

Hocus Pocus Banana Caramel Cream Cheese Pie

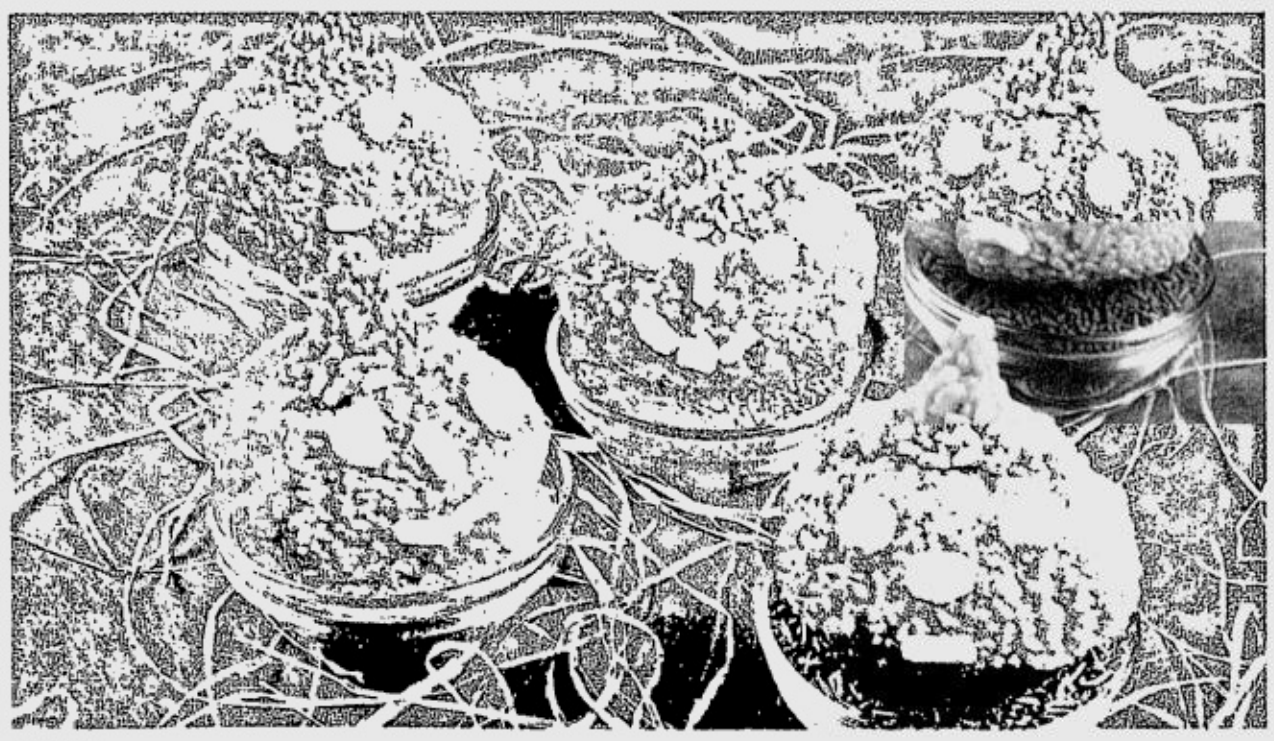
Crust:
1 ¼ c graham crackers
2 tbsp sugar
¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
Cream cheese filling:
1 pack Magnolia Cream cheese, softened
¼ c powdered sugar
1 pack all-purpose cream, whipped
Caramel:
½ c sugar
2 tbsp water
3 c all-purpose cream
3-4 pc banana *lakatan*, sliced
¼ c chocolate syrup (store-bought)
1/3 c walnuts, coarsely chopped

In a bowl, mix all crust ingredients together and press on a 9-inch pie plate. Chill.

For the filling, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. On another bowl, whip cream and fold into the cream cheese mixture.

To make caramel, place sugar and water in a saucepan. Cook until sugar is melted and mixture turns golden brown. Remove from fire and add cream. Let cool.

To assemble, place slices of banana on the bottom of the crust and sprinkle with walnuts. Pour caramel and chocolate syrup over bananas. Spread cream cheese mixture. Dust with cocoa powder. Chill for three hours or more before serving.



GOOEY Marshmallow Bars

Fun TJ Kebabs

1 200-g pack Purefoods TJ Bites
1 c fun-shaped marshmallows
1 c pineapple tidbits

Peel off casing from hotdogs. Skewer TJ Bites alternately with marshmallows and pineapple tidbits. Grill until hotdogs are cooked and marshmallows begin to melt. Arrange kebabs by sticking into a decorated pumpkin.

Scary Harry Taco Bites

1 tbsp Dari Creme margarine
¼ c onions, chopped
¼ kg Monterey Ground Beef
1 tbsp chili powder
½ c tomatoes, diced
2 tbsp tomato sauce
1 tsp sugar
½ tsp oregano
½ tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
1 bar Magnolia Cheezee, grated
12 pc mini taco shells
2 c lettuce, shredded
1 c tomatoes, diced

Heat margarine in a wok and sauté onions and beef. Stir in chili powder, tomatoes, tomato sauce, sugar, oregano, salt and pepper. Simmer for about 5-7 minutes. To assemble, place some beef mixture in the taco shell. Add shredded lettuce and diced tomatoes. Top with grated Magnolia Cheezee.

Gooey Marshmallow Bars

¼ c Dari Creme margarine
3 c white marshmallow
4 c rice crispies
food coloring

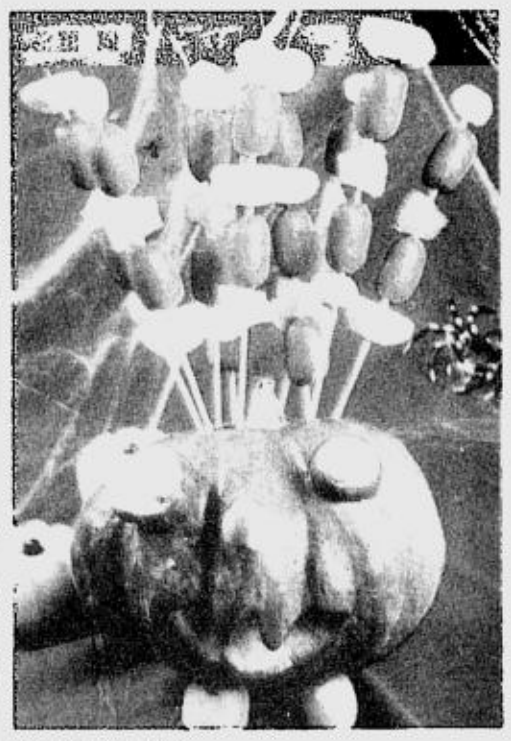
In a sauce pan, melt margarine over low heat. Add the marshmallow, stirring continuously until melted. Add food color or sprinkles. Cut rice crispies into fun shapes.

Crazy Chili Pita Pizza

6 pc 6-inch pita pocket
1 390-g can Purefoods Chilicon with Beans and Ground Beef
250 g Purefoods Chic 'n' Tasty Hotdog, sliced
1 bar Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated
1 pc red and green bell pepper, chopped

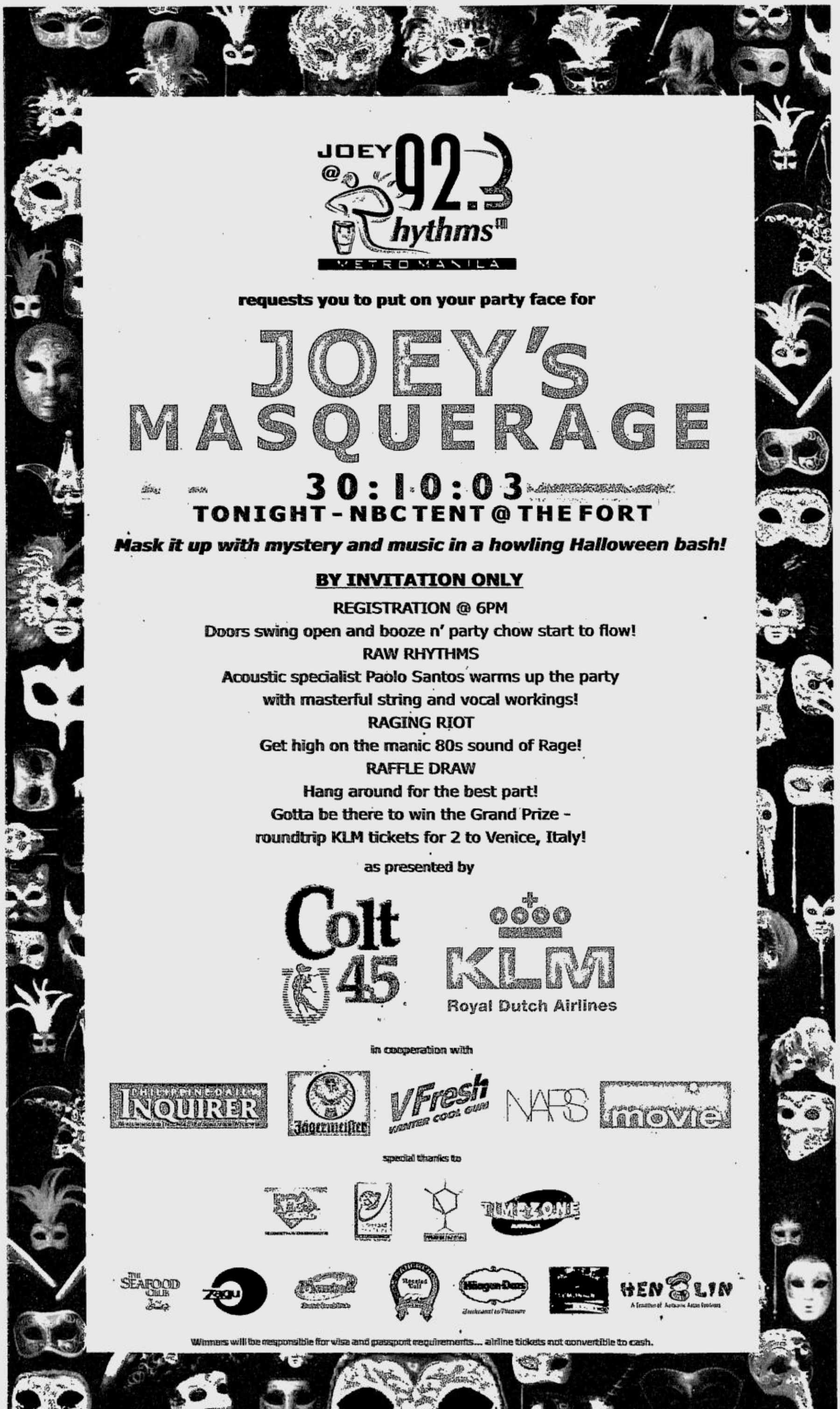
Preheat oven to 400 °F. Spread chilicon on top of the pita pocket. Sprinkle grated cheese and make crazy faces using the hotdog and red and green bell peppers. Bake for 5-8 minutes or until cheese melts and pita turns crisp. Makes six pieces.

For more recipes and tips, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center, Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City, or log on to www.mygreatfood.com.



FUN TJ Kebabs

BANANA Caramel Cream Cheese Pie



Magnifico gelato!

This Italian treat has less fat compared to ice cream, uses no preservatives and is perfect for lactose-intolerant Pinoys

PAGLIACCI gelatos melt more slowly than typical ice cream, since they are practically free of air bubbles.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"I LIKE gelato because it is something particularly Italian, like pizza and pasta," says Pagliacci chef Maurizio Gibillini, who has been making gelato since the early '70s.

In those days gelato shops opened only during summertime and boarded up during winter. What lured young Gibillini to venture into the gelato business was the dream of blissful months-long vacations—whipping up gelatos in the summer and taking it easy the rest of the year.

Gibillini comes from a family of bakers in Milan, Italy, where up to this day his family still produces bread, pizza and pastry. So Pagliacci (located at G/F, The Podium), not surprisingly, also serves excellent pizza and pasta.

When it comes to gelato, however, make no mistake: It is not

MAGNIFICO/ D3

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1) Nov. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2003 / 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P8,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. Dec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2003
2) Nov. 8, 2003 - NEW CAKES AND COOKIES - P1,500. Cooked Carrot, Banana, Eggless Chocolate Caramel Cakes, Peanut Butter, Coconut-Chips, Choko-Nut Cookies, Double-Chocolate Brownies. Dec. 6, 2003
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4) Nov. 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2003 / 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING - P8,500. New method of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. Dec. 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12, 2003
5) Nov. 17, 18, 19 & 20, 2003 / 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES W/ RECIPE - P4,000 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling; 2) Rose, Calilleya, Cymbidium; 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes; - (Each set are lessons covered for one day)
6) Nov. 12, 2003 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS, RIBBONS & QUILTING - P3,000. Next schedule: Dec. 9, 2003
7) Nov. 22, 2003 - BLACK-OUT CAKES - P1,500. Chocolate Cheese, CCS Choco Black-out, Choco Pound, Choco Almond Brownie Cakes, CCS Choco Cupcakes. Dec. 20, 2003
8) Nov. 17, 18, 19 & 20, 2003 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P10,500 (including ingredients). 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies. Dec. 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2003
9) Nov. 16, 19, 20 & 21, 2003 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4 Day Course - P10,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in cold porcelain. Dec. 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2003
10) Nov. 29, 2003 - SUGAR FREE II - P2,000. Almond-Lemon, Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies, Chocolate Chiffon Cake w/ Light Choco Frosting, Double Chocolate Brownie Supreme, Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Frosting. Dec. 27, 2003
11) Nov. 22, 2003 - DRAGEE & RIBBON MAKING - P3,000. Make your own edible dragees pearl, silver, gold & any color, ribbon of any size using new textured rollers, lace mat. Dec. 19, 2003
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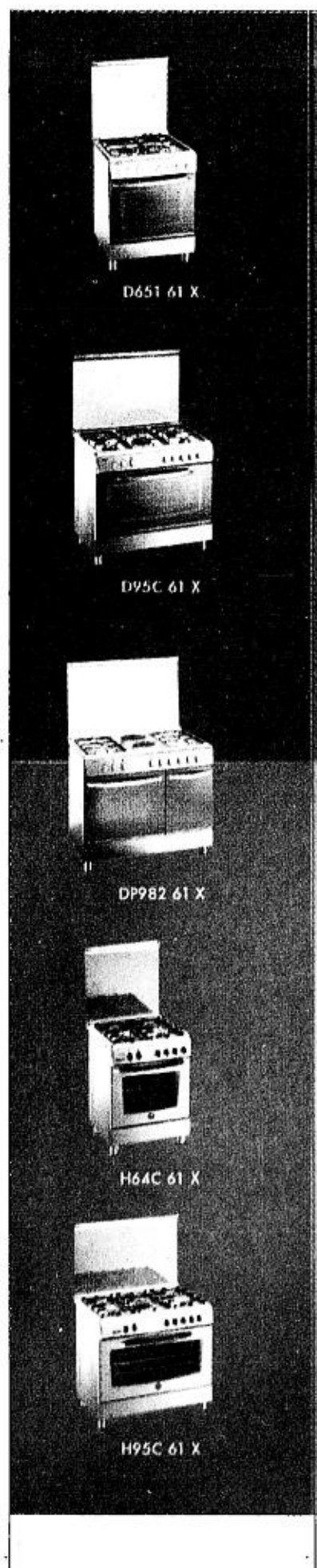

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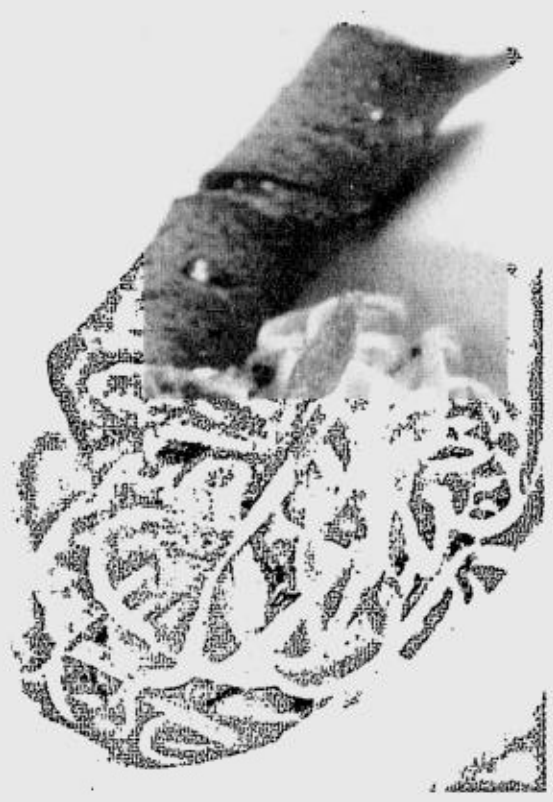
SEA Food Rigatoni Tower by Bracker, served as main course, gets an unexpected amalgam of flavors from the champagne, truffle foam grilled scallops, prawn jus and green asparagus.



SALVIA Al Burro by Escalante, served as a starter, is an old Italian recipe that's not found in the books anymore. Salvia stands for "sage" while Al Burro means "butter." This dish can be a base for anything and is especially served with grilled scallops or any seafood.

BLANKETED Seafoods with Absinth and Crab Stock Sauce by Legasto, served as an entree, is seafood lasagna stuffed with crabs, smoked salmon, poached salmon, prawns and a bit of scallop served with a sauce of crab stock. Absinth acts as the alcohol element to the dish.

BAVETTE Noodles with Homemade Sambal Olek by Golding, a local dish with very strong Malaysian influence, is served with sauteed *kangkong* shoots and seared *tilapia* fillet.

FREDERIC Luna

MARTIN Bracker

HUMPHREY Navarro

BAMBI Sy Gobio

GOLDA Laurel

MELISSA Sison

MARCO Legasto

TONY Boy Escalante

ROLAND Laudico

PHILIP Golding

AILEEN Anastacio

JACKIE Alleje

12 versions of pasta

THE FLY Ace Mediterranean Dining Club recently capped its "Anything But Spaghetti Festival" with a lunch buffet featuring 12 chefs and their visions of pasta at Restaurant 12.

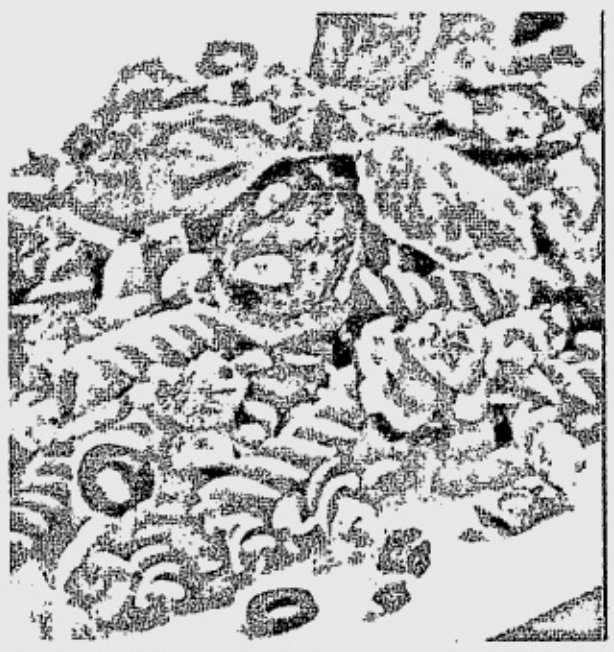
Designed to promote the many shapes of pasta and creative ways to prepare them, the event focused on Federici, one of the few truly authentic Italian pasta available in the Philippines. Federici has been family-owned since 1888 and continues to uphold the traditional standards of pasta quality.

Members of the media were treated to an afternoon of original pasta dishes creatively prepared by 12 of the country's top chefs.

Featured chefs are Jackie Alleje of Petra's Naturally, Aileen Anastacio of Goodies n' Sweet, Martin Bracker of Nuvo Restaurant and Wine Bar, Tony Boy Escalante of Antonio's, Bambi Sy Gobio of Kooky and Luscious, Philip Golding of Azurro Bistro, Roland Laudico of Laudico's Culinary Services, Golda Laurel of Mama Rosa, Marco Legasto of Restaurant 12, Frederic Luna of For the Road Bar and Grill, Humphrey Navarro of the Mandarin Oriental Manila and Melissa Sison of My Little Kitchen.

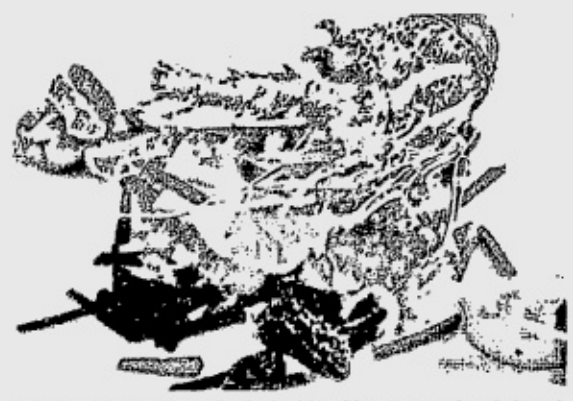
As part of the continuing promotions, the 12 pasta dishes will be served to Restaurant 12 customers in the next 12 months, one dish per month.

Federici pasta, exclusive distributed in the Philippines by Fly Ace Corporation, is available at grocery stores nationwide.



1001 NIGHT Vegetarian Delight by Alleje is a versatile dish that can be served hot as a pasta dish or cold as an appetizer or salad. Packed with vitamins, protein and essential fatty acids, it uses the *tricolore farfalle* pasta, garden fresh vegetables, herbs and mushrooms, but ingredients can vary according to season, occasion, and moods of the cook.

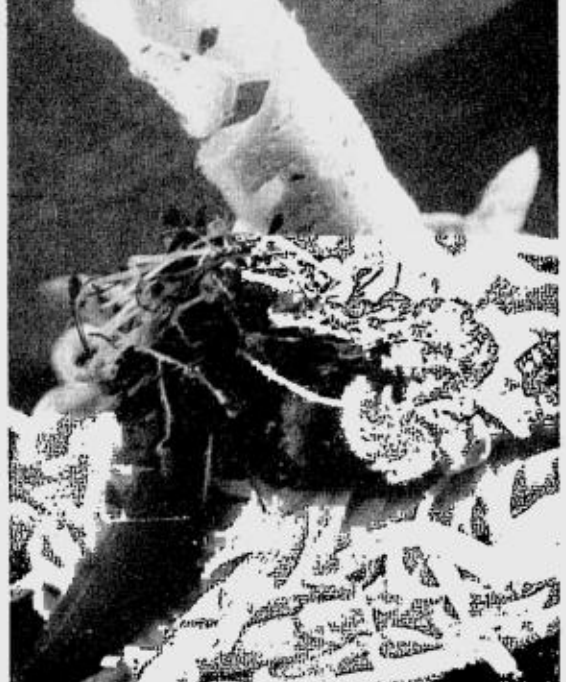
LUSCIOUS Nest of Passion by Sy Gobio, served as a dessert, is a combination of chocolate, passion fruits and pasta that is made to look like a nest.



LOBSTER Tagliatelle Salad by Sison uses fresh local lobsters from Palawan. It owes its Mediterranean flavor to the combination of pistachio, Parmesan, basil and anchovies.

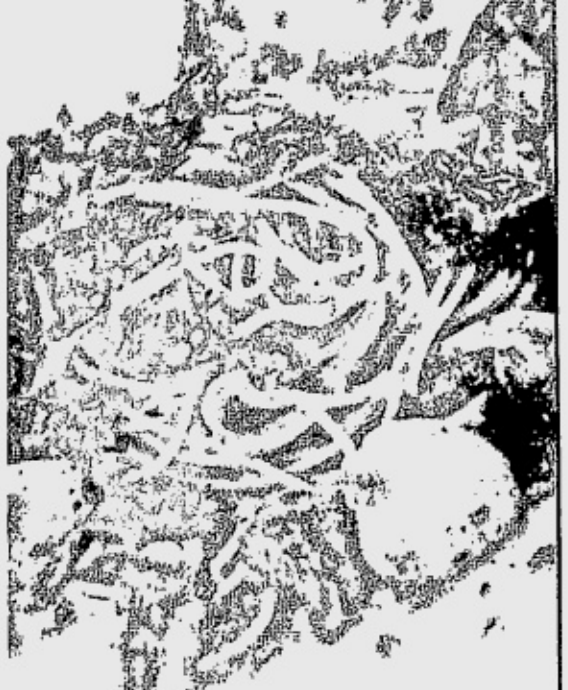
STUFFED Pasta Roll by Luna is a flavorful pizza stuffing rolled in lasagna. It is an adaptation of the California Maki.

BURONG Mustasa Pasta by Laudico, served as a main course, is a capelinni dish with a lot of Filipino flavor and Asian taste from the pickled mustard greens and the pan seared tiger prawns.

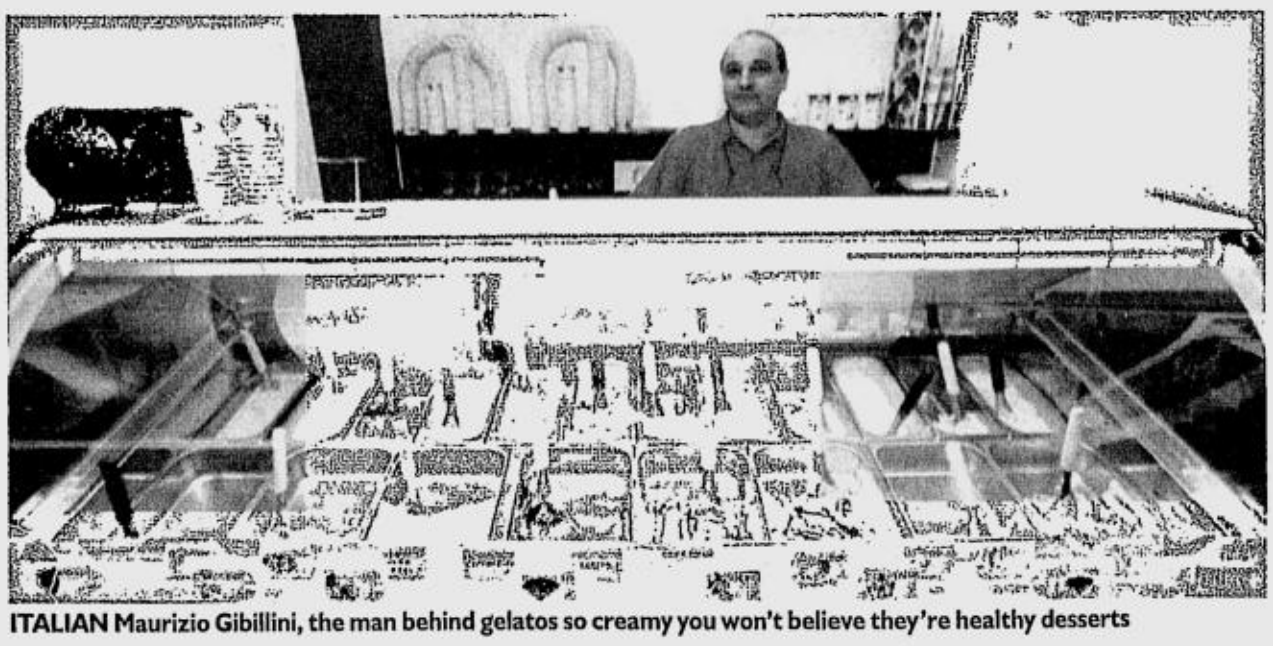


PASTA with Citrus Cilantro by Navarro, served as a main course, has glazed duck breast, white and green asparagus and duck liver chips and micro green relish. Truffle oil is used because it blends well with bavette pasta. The dish also has leatherwood honey which especially comes from Tasmania.

PASTA Pangatlo by Laurel, served as a main course, is so named because chef Golda is a third generation Rosa. It uses for its main ingredient the Mama Rosa Boneless Spicy Tuyo, plus *quesong puti* from Leyte.



VODKA Prawns and Scallops Spaghettini by Anastacio, served as a main course, uses Citron Vodka vodka and lemon olive oil to complement the flavor of seafood.



ITALIAN Maurizio Gibillini, the man behind gelatos so creamy you won't believe they're healthy desserts

Magnifico gelato!

From page D1

ice cream. Gibillini insists—and passionately so—on this fact. "Ice cream was invented yesterday [by an American]... Gelato was invented before Jesus Christ. That's a true story," he says.

Indeed, the earliest mention of gelato is in the Bible, when Abraham ate (not drank) Isaac's offering of cold goat's milk. In Italy, gelato had beginnings similar to our *halo-halo*, says Gibillini. Ice was sourced from snowcaps, then mixed with honey and fruits. He says sorbet came to Europe in the 11th century, using the same machine found today in the Philippines to produce "dirty" ice cream.

Healthier

Gelato is more nutritious than their American counterpart, says Gibillini. It has less fat content—only 3.2-3.4 percent compared to ice cream's 30 percent. It uses no preservatives and is perfect for lactose-intolerant Pinoys.

And there's a selection of sugar-free flavors made of soya and artificial sweetener that are just as good.

"Ice cream is made of cream. Gelato is made of skimmed milk; that's why it has less fat content. Sorbet is even better. Just blend fruit with water and sugar," he says.

A hundred grams of gelato contain between 160-180 calories, he says, like a glass of flavored milk. Compare that to a bar of Mars chocolate that easily packs a whopping 400 calories, equivalent to a bag of chips.

All the health talk, however, shouldn't discourage the "no-sugar, no-fat, no-good" diehards. Pagliacci's gelatos are amazingly rich, thick and creamy—even without the cream—and creamier than the leading imported ice creams.

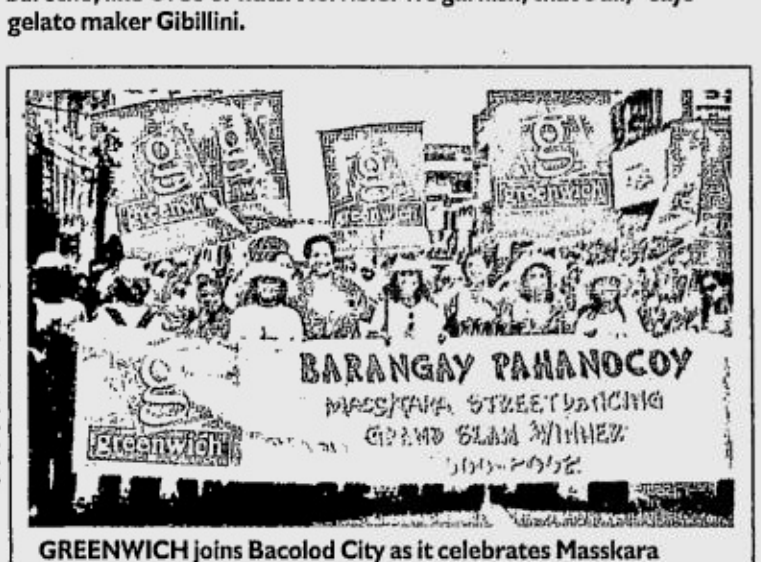
His secret? "The skill of the people doing it and the equipment," he says. "If two chefs are given the same ingredients to make carbonara, both will never produce the same taste even if they follow the same recipe."

Compliment him on his delicious gelatos and he gets that sparkle in his eyes before he exclaims: "I know!"

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

THERE are over 50 flavors, but only 24 are displayed at a given time.

"WE [Italians] like the gelato flavor plain. We don't put a lot of *cheche bureche*, like Oreo or nuts. Horrible! We garnish, that's all," says gelato maker Gibillini.



GREENWICH joins Bacolod City as it celebrates Masskara Festival. Gracing the streets of the City of Smiles are streetdancers from Brgy. Pahanocoy, the Masskara Streetdancing Grand Slam winner. In photo are the Greenwich team members with Bacolod Rep. Puentevella.

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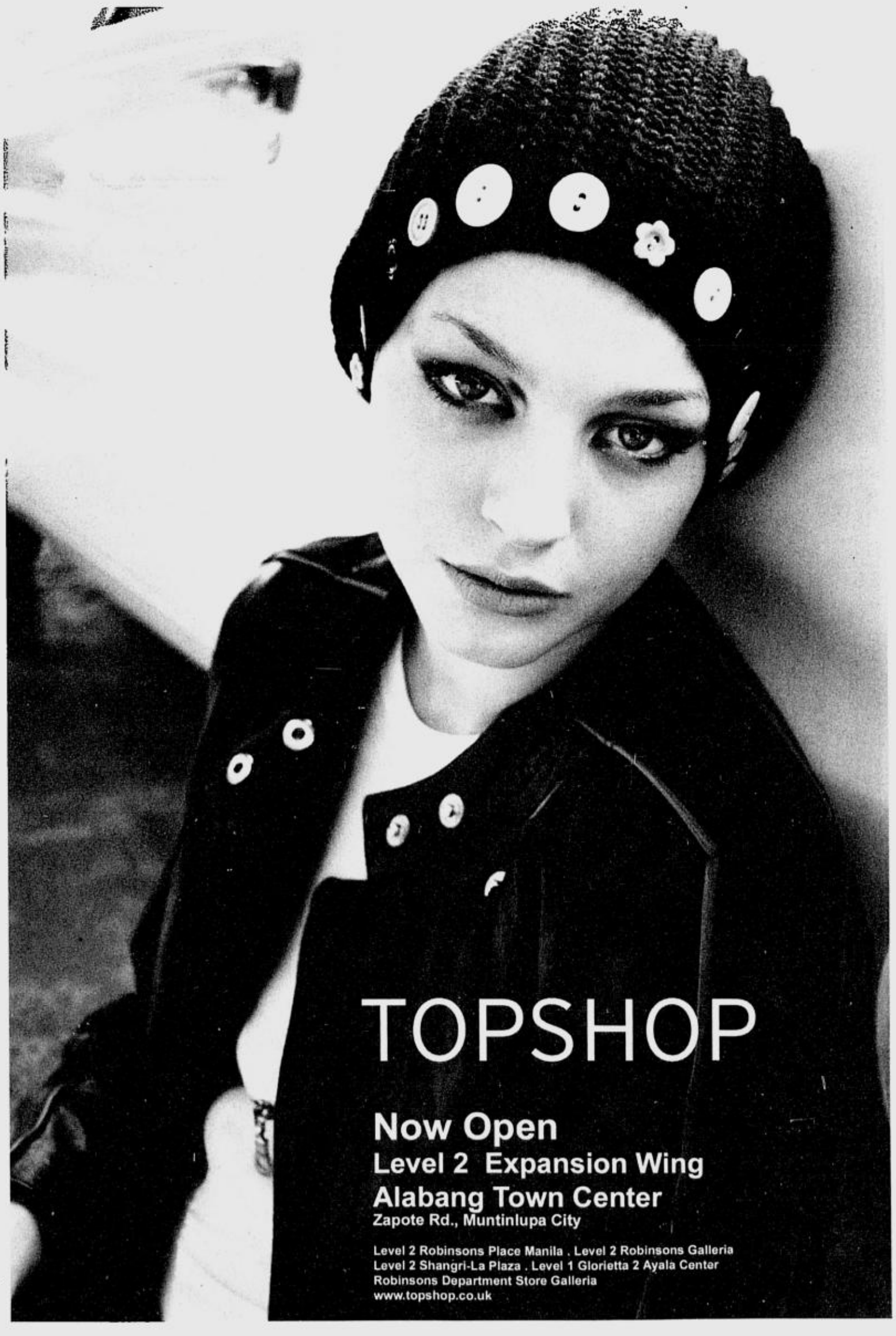

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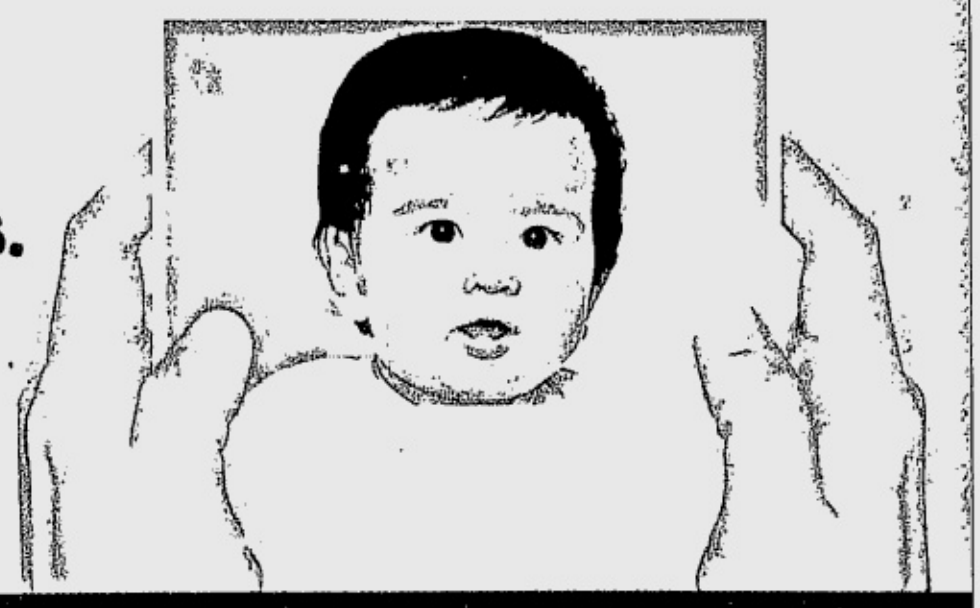

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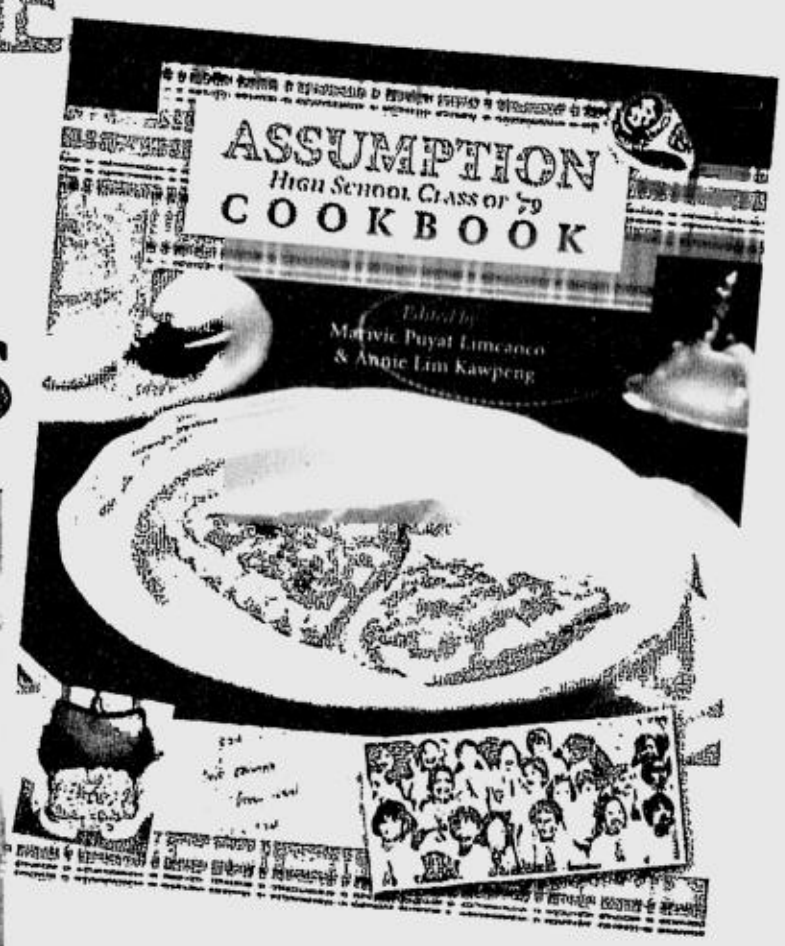
Kitchen Rescue by Reggie Aspiras will appear next Thursday

New cookbook from Assumption jubilarians



By Marcia E. Sandoval
Contributor

AT THE ASSUMPTION College, the alumnae awaken with renewed energy and excitement every time a class anniversary is forthcoming,

The Velada, a traditional Assumption program of songs, dances and many speeches, is the highlight of every reunion held in the campus grounds, either in San Lorenzo or Antipolo. This special day of bonding is called Old Girls Day.

While alumnae traditionally do dances and other special activities, a number of batches have come up with novel projects to celebrate their reunion.

Isabel "Bingle" Razon-Puyat (HS '54) was the first to forego dance numbers, coming up instead with a perfectly beautiful cookbook with each classmate contributing a recipe.

Class HS '77 then did a second Assumption cookbook called "Food For Thought." It contained 100 recipes from appetizer to dessert, with personal anecdotes about the food from each alumna thrown in.

Finally, when it was her batch's turn to become silver jubilarians, Marivic Puyat-Limcaoco, taking after mom Bingle, suggested coming up with another Assumption cookbook. With Annie Lim-Kawpeng, she again collected recipes from classmates all over the globe.

This book, called the "Assumption High School Batch '79 cookbook," is finally off the press and will be formally launched by November.

Here are a few choice recipes from the latest Assumption cookbook:

MARIVIC Puyat-Limcaoco and Annie Lim-Kawpeng

The pride and joy of High School Batch '79 will take its place on the Velada table on Nov. 8

Ah Ma's meatballs

Gigi Gotuaco-Tse

(An old family favorite from the days when the whole clan would gather at Ah Ma and Ang Kong's home for the Sunday meal.)

½ kg minced pork
½ c tapioca powder or potato flour
1 whole onion, chopped
½ tsp chicken powder
1/8 tsp black pepper
salt to taste

Mix all ingredients well and make into bite-size balls. Deep fry till golden brown. Drain and serve hot.

Note: You can use *kamote* flour or double AA cornstarch for the tapioca powder.

Karen's Fudgy Brownie

Karen Cancio-Litre

(From friend Elizabeth Jackson, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America who swears this is the best brownie recipe she's tried.)

1 c unsalted butter, melted
¾ c cocoa powder
2 c sugar
4 large eggs
1 c all-purpose flour
2 tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp salt
2 c (12 ounces) chocolate chips
1 c chopped walnuts

Preheat oven at 350°F and grease a 13" x 9½" baking pan. Pour melted butter into large mixing bowl. Add the cocoa powder and stir well until blended. Add the sugar and mix well. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla, salt and the flour and stir until just mixed together. Do not over beat. Stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.

Spread into prepared baking pan and bake for 25-30 minutes. Let cool and cut into 24 squares. Can freeze well, wrapped in plastic.

Mustard Glazed Corned Beef

Lisa Lorenzo Uy

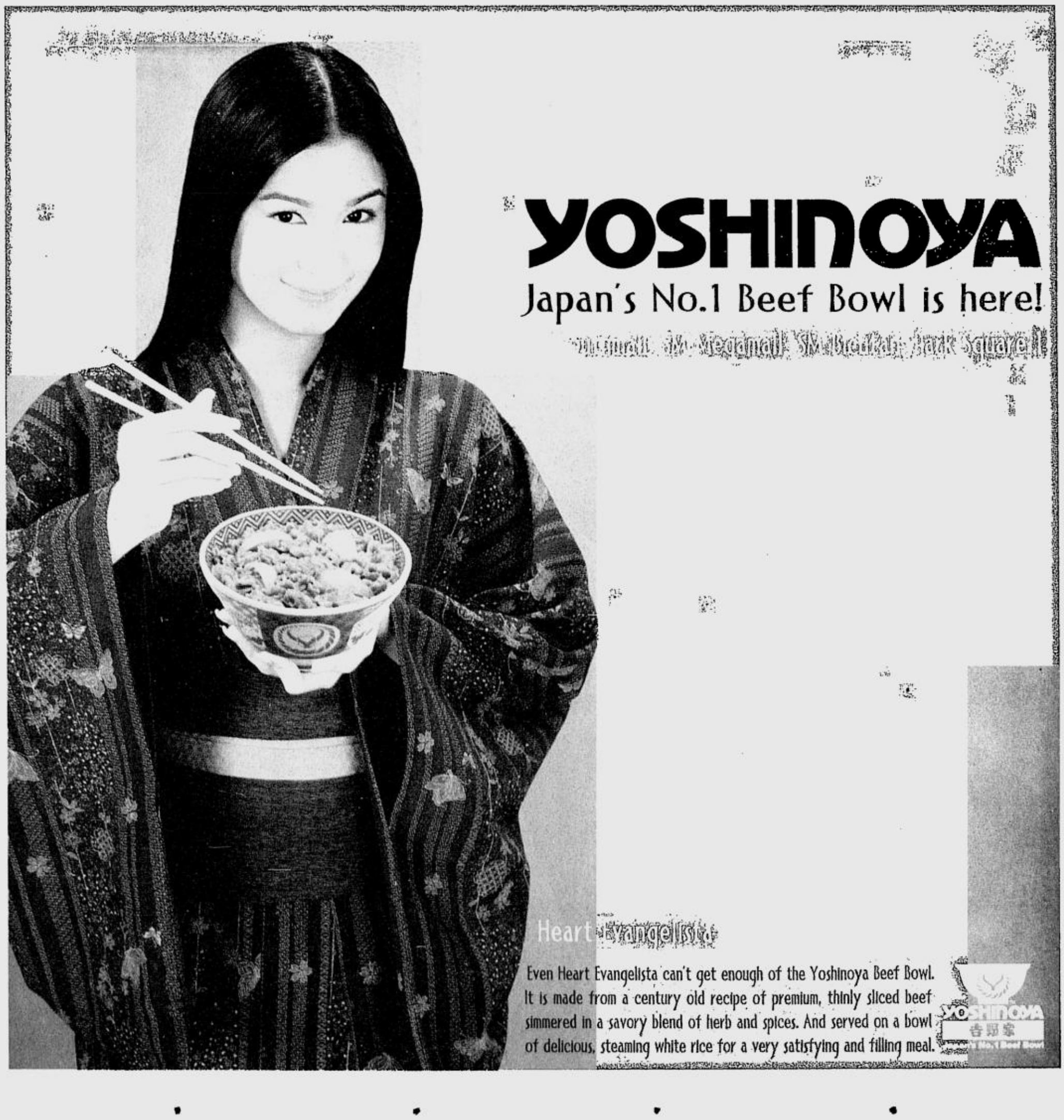
(From recipes mom Mary Jo Cuna Lorenzo, HS '55, compiled as she was battling with cancer because she was not one to be idle even as she was confined in bed.)

1 6-lb corned beef brisket
1 medium onion, halved
1 celery stalk, cut up
2 garlic cloves
½ tsp peppercorns
water
2/3 c packed brown sugar
2 tbsp prepared mustard
2 tbsp ketchup

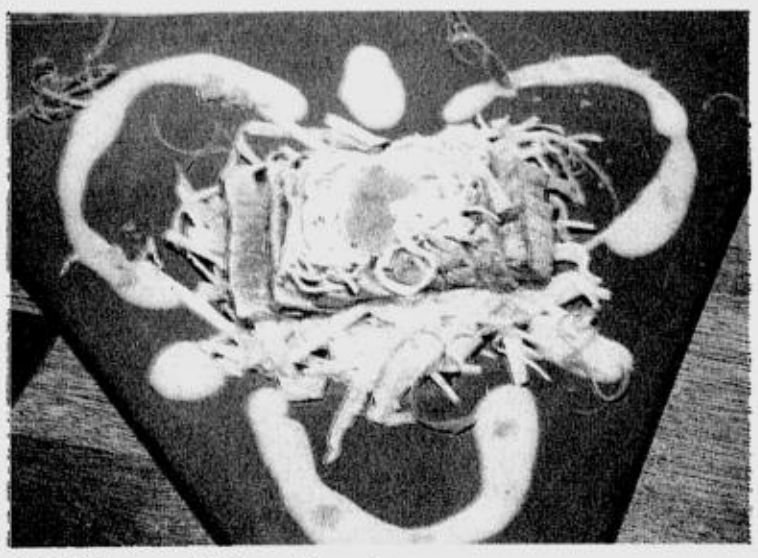
Put brisket in casserole and add water enough to cover meat. Add onion, celery, garlic and peppercorn, and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer until tender (about three hours).

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cut meat into slices. Arrange overlapping slices in an ovenproof

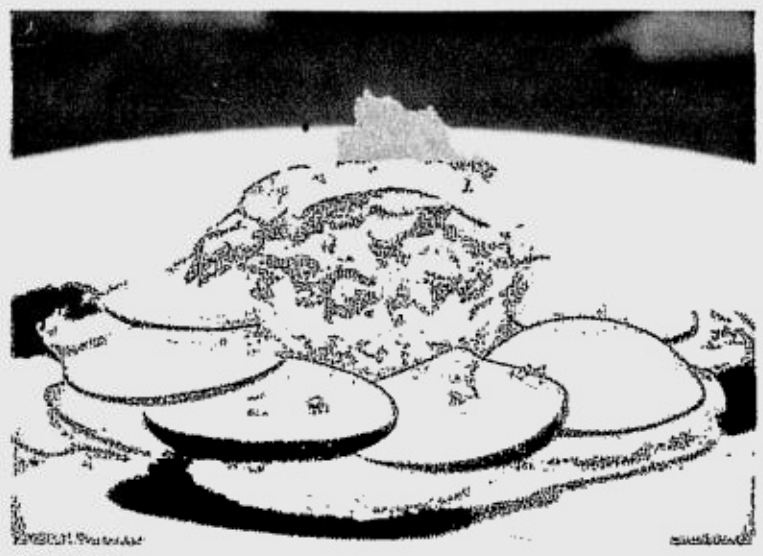
NEW/ E2



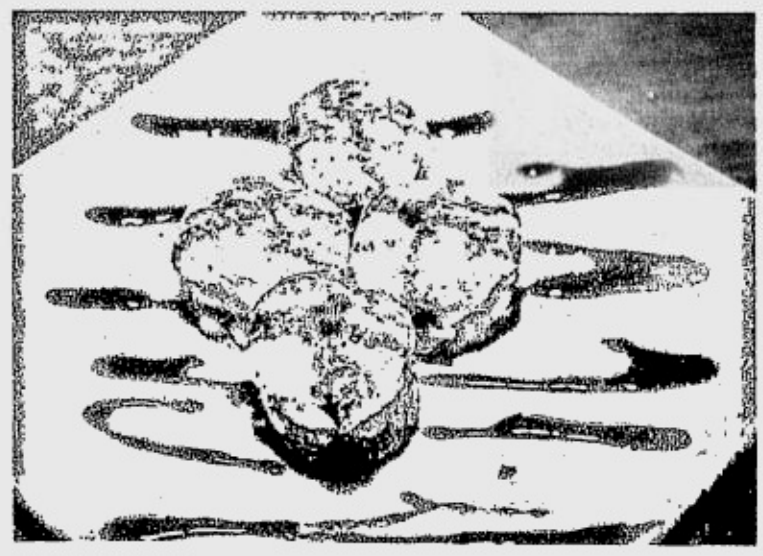
Even Heart Evangelista can't get enough of the Yoshinoya Beef Bowl. It is made from a century old recipe of premium, thinly sliced beef simmered in a savory blend of herb and spices. And served on a bowl of delicious, steaming white rice for a very satisfying and filling meal.



SEARED Tuna with Mango Ponzu Sauce



SUSHI Stack



THE #1 Special

Variety in fusion

WASABI'S come-on is the consistency in the quality of its food.

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN A VERY competitive industry where six to seven out of 10 new restaurants fold up—or repackage—after only a short period, surviving two years is remarkable; and getting past the third is short of phenomenal.

Manila diners are fickle, acknowledges chef Roland Laudico. "They try whatever is new," he adds. "Some restaurants have fantastic menus and people go there, but the hardest part is keeping the quality."

The young Laudico is the guest chef at the Wasabi Bistro and Sake Bar (tel. 8404223/7520632). He creates new dishes to boost the already extensive menu of the Japanese fusion restaurant.

Euro techniques, Japanese ingredients

"It's a collaboration," explains Laudico. He's referring to the support and trust the owners of the four-year-old restaurant have given him, and his efforts at helping generate renewed interest in Wasabi.

Laudico trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. He worked briefly in France and Australia before coming home three years ago to set up a catering business. It was in one of his gigs where he met Wasabi part-owner Federico Carmona, who was quite impressed with the young chef's cooking.

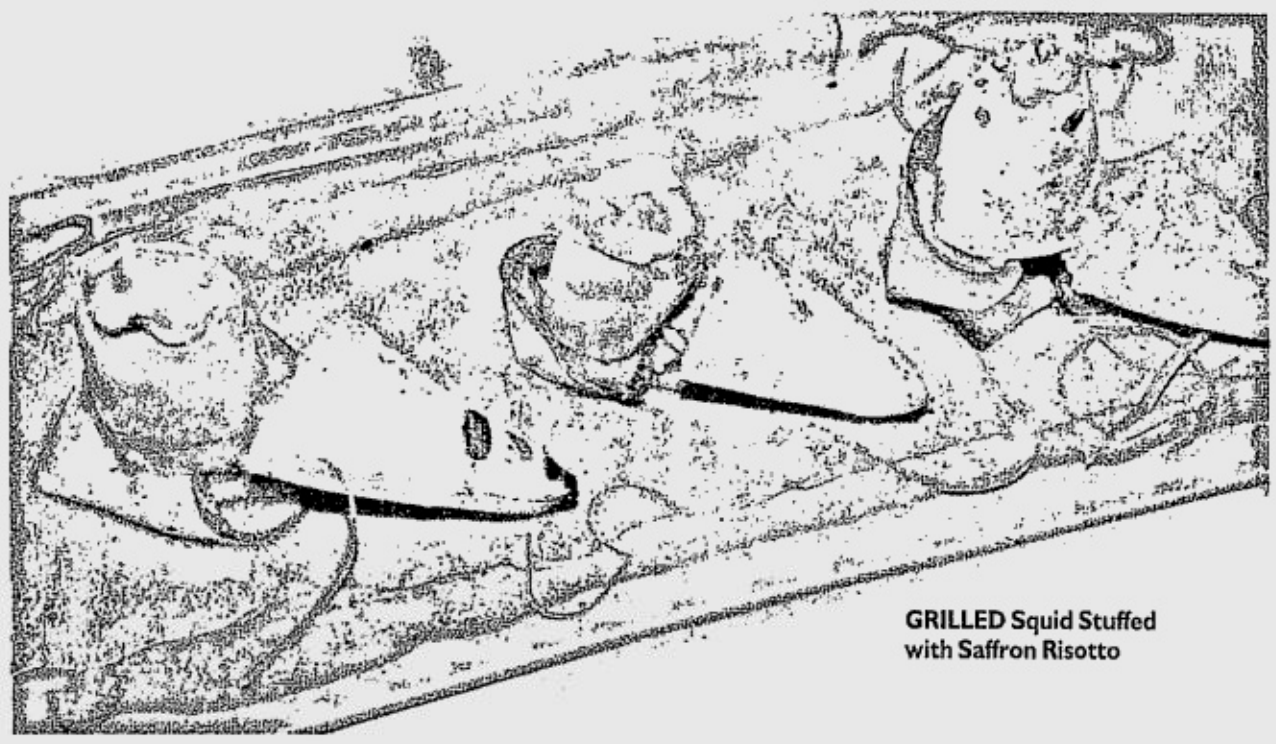
With over 100 dishes on its regular menu, Wasabi clearly thrives on variety. Japanese chef Mitsuharu Fukano mans the kitchens.

"I'm familiar with the kind of cooking [in Wasabi]," says Laudico. "It's the same as my style [which involves] experimenting and mixing of different cuisines, so it wasn't hard [to convince me to work here]."

For a clientele as varied as Wasabi's menu—businessmen, expatriates, families—Laudico created dishes that would appeal to both local and foreign patrons.

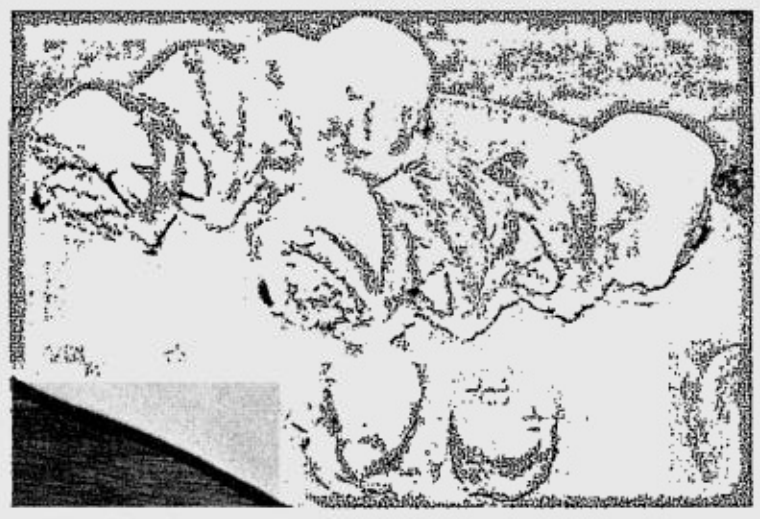
He uses Japanese ingredients, but his technique is European, as in the Chilean Sea Bass rubbed with Asian spices and drizzled with orange *miso* emulsion; the Tamarind-glazed Broiled Pork Tenderloin; the Grilled Squid Stuffed with Saffron Risotto; the Chicken in Sake Rosemary Dijon Sauce; and the Seared Tuna with Mango Ponzu Sauce.

"Most Filipinos go for this kind of food because Japanese cuisine has a lot of sweet and sour combinations, which are familiar to the Filipino palate," says Laudico. "Filipinos travel now, so they want to taste here what they taste outside [the country]."



GRILLED Squid Stuffed with Saffron Risotto

BENTO Box (Beef Tenderloin Teppanyaki)



RAINBOW Roll

> Wasabi would like to be known more as a resto than a bar these days

Focus on food

When it opened three years ago, Wasabi generated buzz more as venue of big celebrity parties. Carmona wants to change the notion that Wasabi is a bar more than a restaurant. Although it still holds "Vibe Fridays" for weekend revelers, Wasabi's focus is on the food. "If your food is good, people will come back," he says. "It's not just the branding and packaging." Wasabi's come-on is consistency in quality of food, he adds.

"Restaurants become popular because of celebrities that go there," says Laudico. "But business also dies because they don't always eat. They just go there to be seen, have a drink or two, to socialize."

While celebrity sightings may be good for publicity, "it's better to have a low-profile restaurant where people go just for the food."

Laudico has a high regard for his patron. "Freddie is hands-on. He thinks of everything—the menu, the operations, the accounting side. He has taste and a great knowledge of food. Many restaurants fail because restaurateurs are only there at night making *chika* and not doing the dirty work." There are also chefs who are only there for show, he adds. "In reality, they don't even cook."

While the Manila food scene has changed dramatically, he notes only very few restaurants emphasize the chef. "Restaurants here try to be in a category. It's either Chinese, Italian, fusion... Very few focus on the chef, his style... We need more of that here because I believe we have fantastic chefs."

But, he says, a restaurant is a business and must make money. This is the biggest challenge for any chef.

Success requires good systems operation and organization. He adds, "As long as you keep serving good food and provide good service, people go back to your restaurant, regardless if you're expensive or cheap."

Wasabi is located at 7912 Makati Ave., Olympia Courtyard Suites Building, beside Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

New cookbook . . .

From page E1

platter. Mix sugar, mustard and ketchup together, and spread on top and in-between meat slices. Bake for 20 minutes till glaze is browned.

Serve with:

Sautéed Cabbage: Slice two heads of cabbage, heat ¼ c salad oil till very hot. Stir in cabbage and 1 tsp salt and ¼ tsp sugar. Stir 5-10 minutes.

Orange Baby Carrots: Heat 1/3 c orange marmalade, 1 tbsp orange juice, 1 tsp chopped parsley, 1/8 tsp salt. Add 1 16-ounce can of whole baby carrots.

Pocholo's Fabada

Marilou Sarthou-Lacson

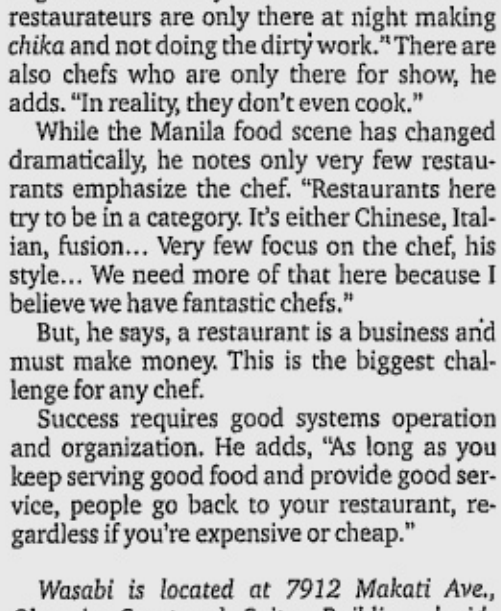
(My dad, "the late-bloomer gourmet"—as we like to call him—has taken to cooking in the last 5-6 years. Next to ESPN, the Lifestyle channel's Food TV is high on his remote! Among our favorites is his excellent Fabada—similar to our Potaje ale Lentejas. My brother and my husband always seem to finish off half a pot between them! As far as we are concerned, our Sunday lunches are never complete without it!)

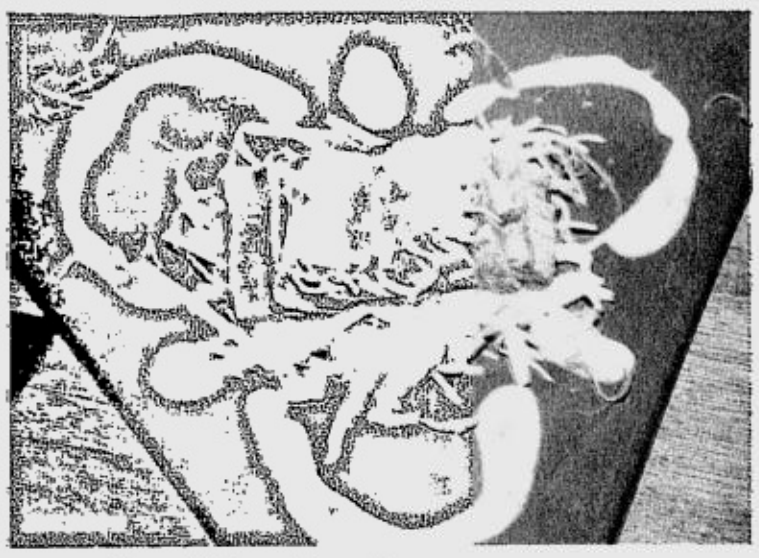
1 pack white beans
10-12 c water
4 stalks celery, chopped thinly
4 stalks, onion leeks, chopped thinly
tarulean bacon, cut in chunks
5 pcs chorizo de bilbao, preferably Marca El Rey or Goiti, cut into 1-inch pcs
3 pcs morcilla (blood sausages), cut into 1-inch slices
3 large carrots, cut into chunks
1 chicken broth/bouillon cube

Soak the white beans in water overnight. Put the celery, onion leeks, tarulean bacon and chorizo in a large saucepan. Add some water, just enough to cover the meat and vegetables. Bring to a boil, then simmer until water turns reddish-yellow in color.

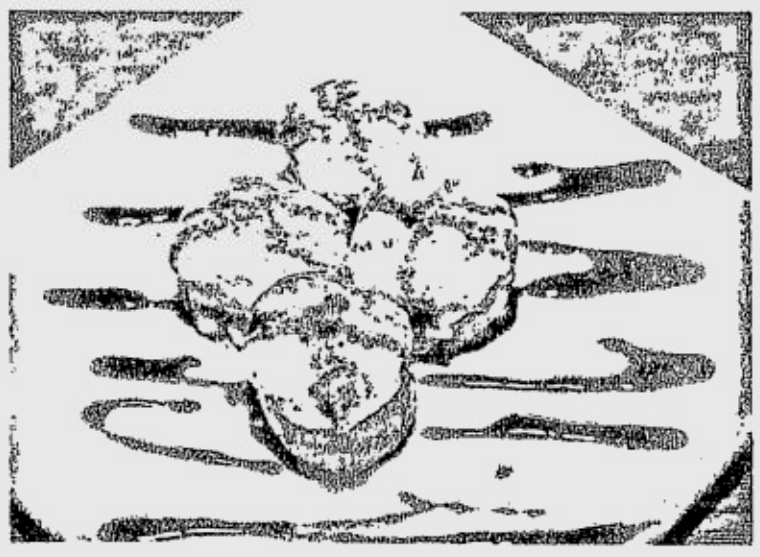
To the cooking pot, add white beans, bouillon cube and the rest of the water. Bring to a boil then let simmer. When beans are half-cooked, add the morcillas and carrots. You may add more water if soup becomes dry and the beans are not yet cooked. Simmer until beans are soft and the sauce thickens, stirring occasionally. The bean soup must be creamy and not watery. Serve with hot French bread or hot rice. Sprinkle each serving with olive oil and red wine vinegar.

The Assumption cookbooks are available at the admin office of Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village. Call 8943561 or 8943580.

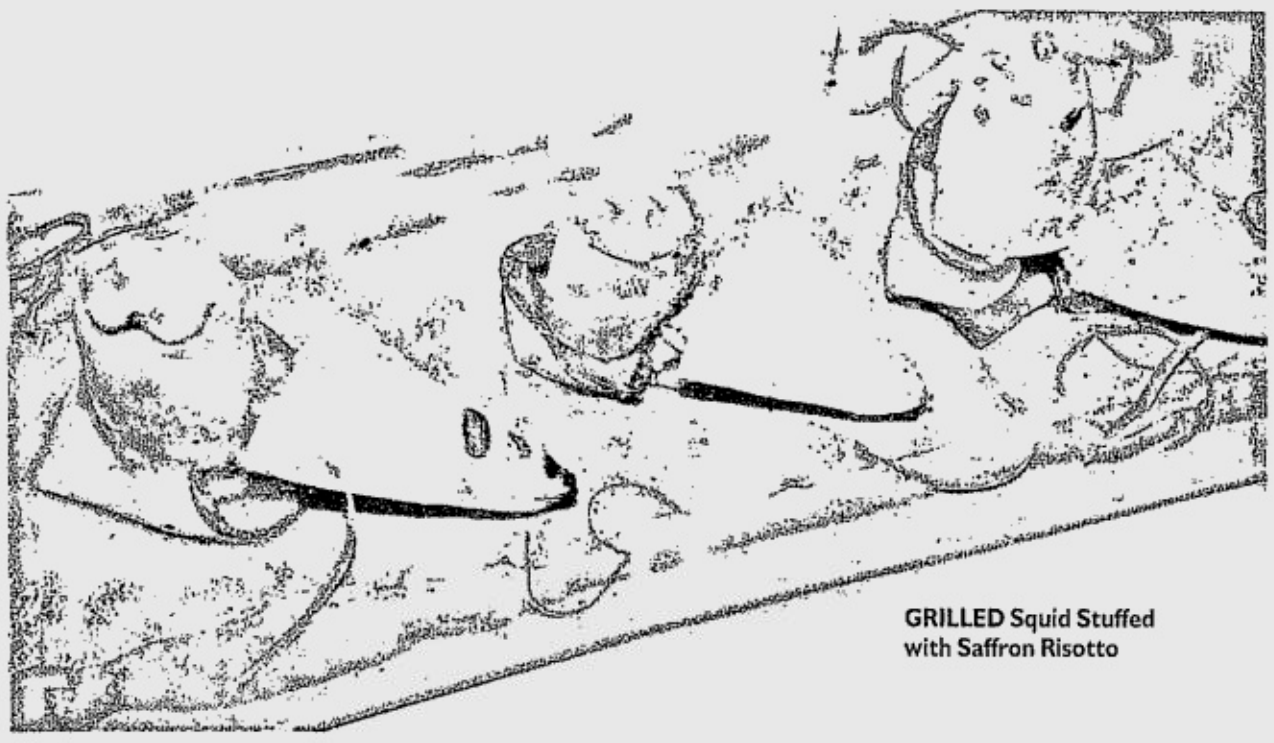



SEARED Tuna with Mango Ponzu Sauce

SUSHI Stack


THE #1 Special

Variety in fusion


GRILLED Squid Stuffed with Saffron Risotto

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Romy Homillada

IN A VERY competitive industry where six to seven out of 10 new restaurants fold up—or repackage—after only a short period, surviving two years is remarkable; and getting past the third is short of phenomenal.

Manila diners are fickle, acknowledges chef Roland Laudico. "They try whatever is new," he adds. "Some restaurants have fantastic menus and people go there, but the hardest part is keeping the quality."

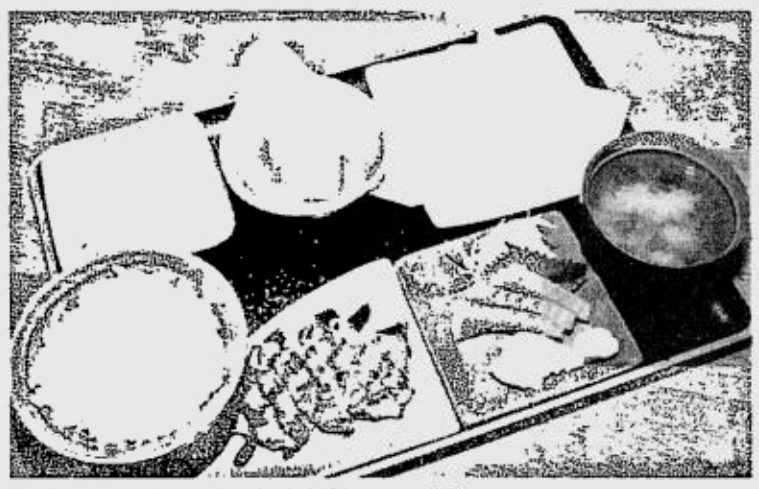
The young Laudico is the guest chef at the Wasabi Bistro and Sake Bar (tel. 8404223/7520632). He creates new dishes to boost the already extensive menu of the Japanese fusion restaurant.

Euro techniques, Japanese ingredients

"It's a collaboration," explains Laudico. He's referring to the support and trust the owners of the four-year-old restaurant have given him, and his efforts at helping generate renewed interest in Wasabi.

Laudico trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. He worked briefly in France and Australia before coming home three years ago to set up a catering business. It was in one of his gigs where he met Wasabi part-owner Federico Carmona, who was quite impressed with the young chef's cooking.

WASABI'S come-on is the consistency in the quality of its food.


BENTO Box (Beef Tenderloin Teppanyaki)

RAINBOW Roll

With over 100 dishes on its regular menu, Wasabi clearly thrives on variety. Japanese chef Mitsuharu Fukano mans the kitchens.

"I'm familiar with the kind of cooking [in Wasabi]," says Laudico. "It's the same as my style [which involves] experimenting and mixing of different cuisines, so it wasn't hard [to convince me to work here]."

For a clientele as varied as Wasabi's menu—businessmen, expatriates, families—Laudico created dishes that would appeal to both local and foreign patrons.

He uses Japanese ingredients, but his technique is European, as in the Chilean Sea Bass rubbed with Asian spices and drizzled with orange *miso* emulsion; the Tamarind-glazed Broiled Pork Tenderloin; the Grilled Squid Stuffed with Saffron Risotto; the Chicken in Sake Rosemary Dijon Sauce; and the Seared Tuna with Mango Ponzu Sauce.

> Wasabi would like to be known more as a resto than a bar these days

"Most Filipinos go for this kind of food because Japanese cuisine has a lot of sweet and sour combinations, which are familiar to the Filipino palate," says Laudico. "Filipinos travel now, so they want to taste here what they taste outside [the country]."

Focus on food

When it opened three years ago, Wasabi generated buzz more as venue of big celebrity parties. Carmona wants to change the notion that Wasabi is a bar more than a restaurant. Although it still holds "Vibe Fridays" for weekend revelers, Wasabi's focus is on the food. "If your food is good, people will come back," he says. "It's not just the branding and packaging." Wasabi's come-on is consistency in quality of food, he adds.

"Restaurants become popular because of celebrities that go there," says Laudico. "But business also dies because they don't always eat. They just go there to be seen, have a drink or two, to socialize."

While celebrity sightings may be good for publicity, "it's better to have a low-profile restaurant where people go just for the food."

Laudico has a high regard for his patron. "Freddie is hands-on. He thinks of everything—the menu, the operations, the accounting side. He has taste and a great knowledge of food. Many restaurants fail because restaurateurs are only there at night making *chika* and not doing the dirty work." There are also chefs who are only there for show, he adds. "In reality, they don't even cook."

While the Manila food scene has changed dramatically, he notes only very few restaurants emphasize the chef. "Restaurants here try to be in a category. It's either Chinese, Italian, fusion... Very few focus on the chef, his style... We need more of that here because I believe we have fantastic chefs."

But, he says, a restaurant is a business and must make money. This is the biggest challenge for any chef.

Success requires good systems operation and organization. He adds, "As long as you keep serving good food and provide good service, people go back to your restaurant, regardless if you're expensive or cheap."

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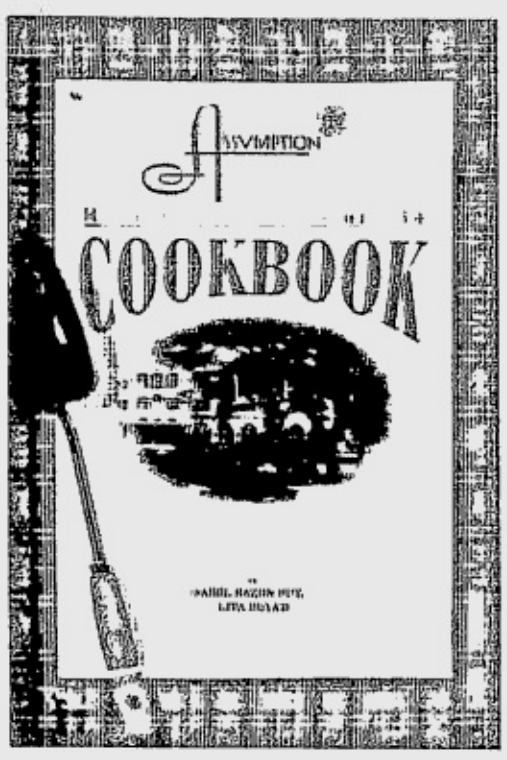
New cookbook . . .

From page E1



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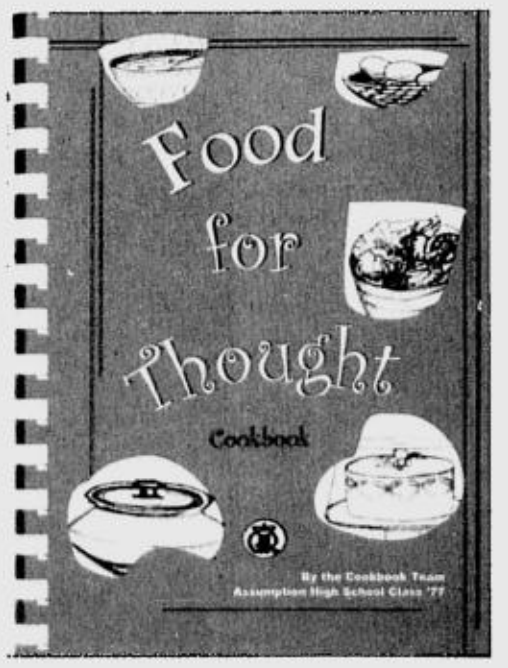

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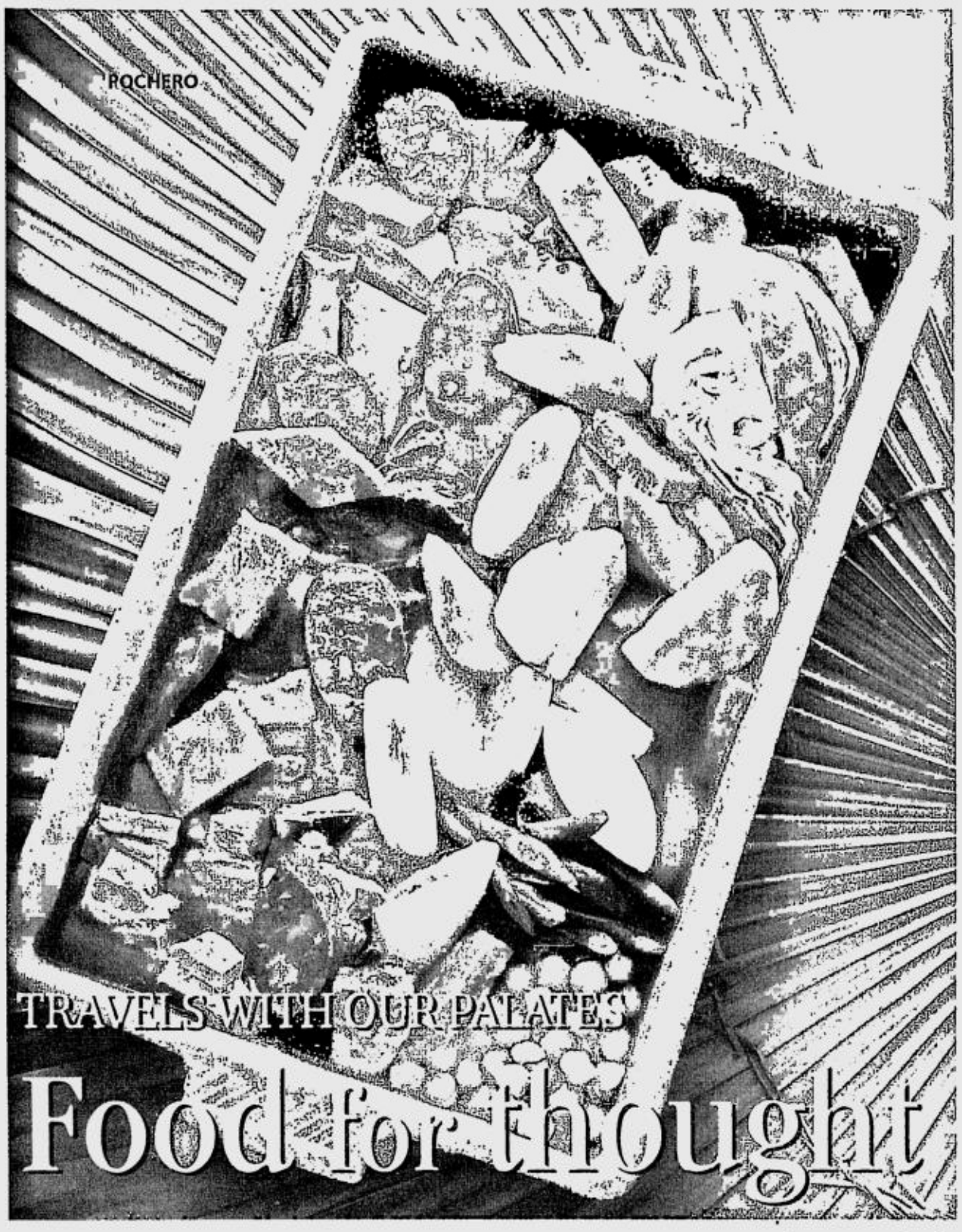

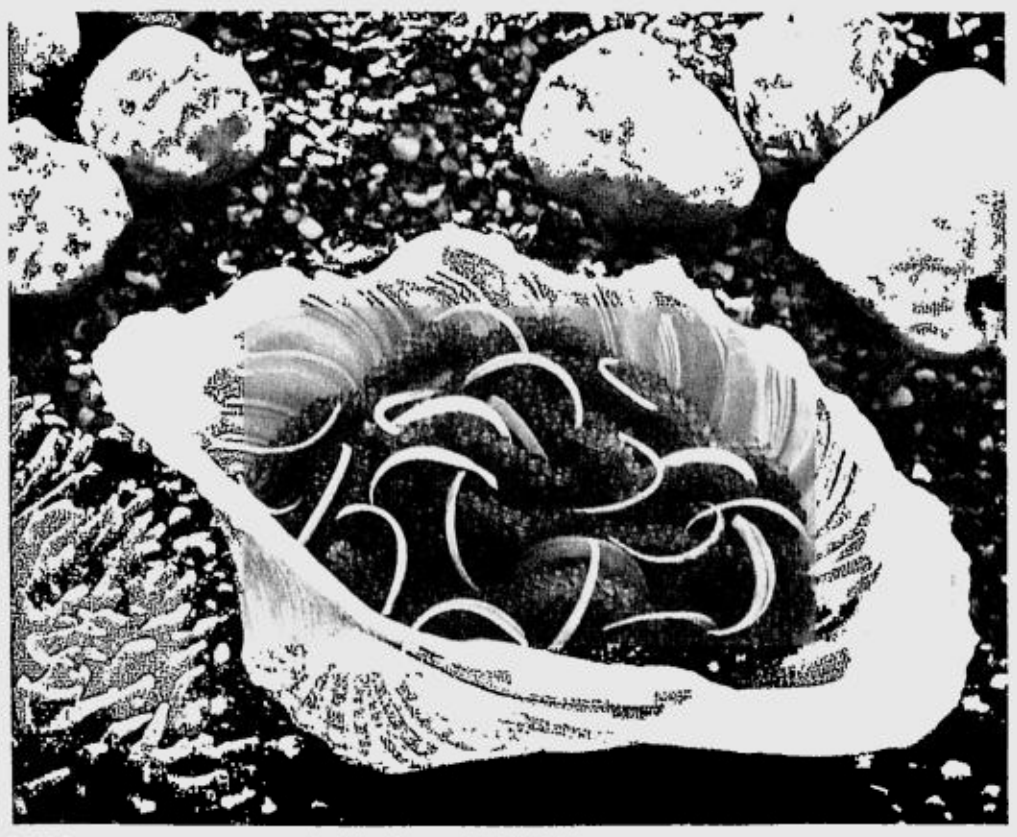

LATO

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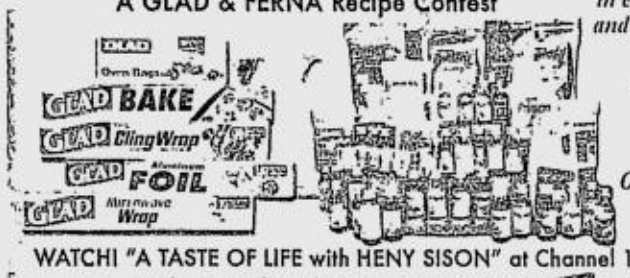

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By Mina and Erwin Elechicon
Contributors

Ever thought about the origins of names given to food? It can be both fascinating and edifying

A POTLUCK lunch with friends on a lazy Sunday recently consisted of a salad of *lato* (seaweed) with tomatoes and onions, *empanada* that someone had made that morning, *chopsuey* from yesterday's leftovers, with *pochero* as the highlight of the meal. Then there was a slab of Brie (cheese) from the back of the ref. This was capped with tea or coffee and a dessert of Crème St. Honoré bought from the bakery at the mall the previous night (50 percent off after 8 pm!).

One way to make any meal an interesting experience is to talk about the food you're eating. To "spice up" the meal, it may even be worthwhile doing a little research beforehand with the encyclopedia or the Net.

Here are a few insights on what we had for lunch.

Appearance, color, size, shape or manner of cooking sometimes formed the basis for naming food. At Seaside Market in Baclaran, you'll find what has been described as "bright green plastic-looking grapelike nodes borne on branches" on offer in the early mornings. Although this somewhat clinical description is certainly not appetizing, its subject definitely is. The seaweed being depicted is **Lato** or **Sea Grapes**, always eaten fresh with onions and tomatoes, and dressed with vinegar.

Empanada means "covered with bread," though it's often bread dough or shortcrust pastry that is used for this Spanish and Latin American savory turnover, whose fillings range from clams to rabbit, sardines to pigeon, octopus to ham, and not just the regular minced meat and sausage.

Intermingling

Lifestyles, intermingling of foreign cultures and traditions, and distortions of languages contributed to the naming of food. **Chopsuey** is said to have been invented in San Francisco at the end of the 19th century. A Chinese cook, confronted by a demand for food late at night, improvised it from a mixture of leftovers. But Li Shu-fan points out in his autobiography, "Hong Kong Surgeon," that the dish is from a rural district south of Canton, Toisan, which was home for many of the early Chinese immigrants to California. The name is Cantonese "tsap seui" or in Mandarin "tsa sui" for "miscellaneous scraps."

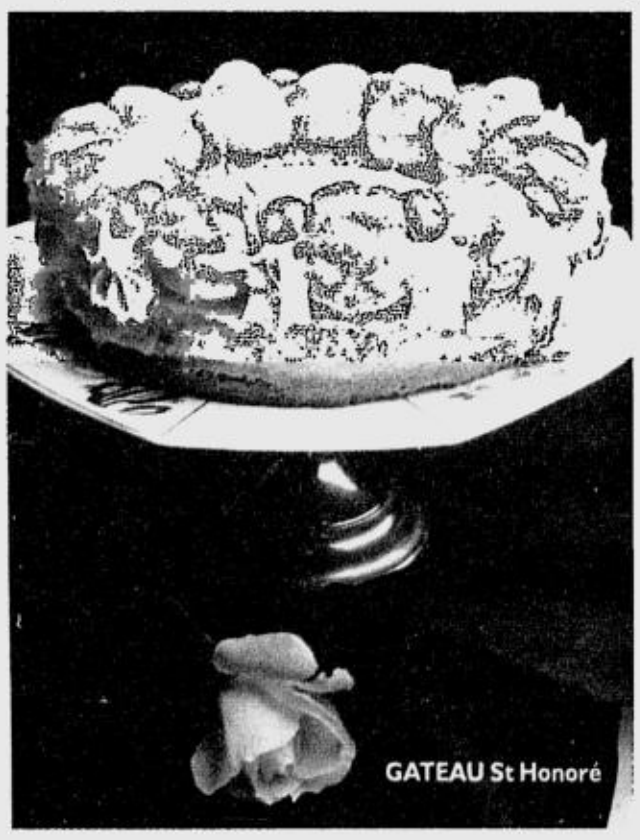
The mixed meat stew known as Puchero in Spain, we call **Pochero** in the Philippines. A festive dish of beef, pork, chicken, ham or chorizo, chickpeas, cabbage, it is often served at family reunions or during the Christmas season (but is just as great for lunch on a rainy Sunday afternoon in October). The Filipino version clearly comes from the Spanish original, but indigenization has resulted in an accompanying tomato sauce and eggplant or squash relish (usually on the side) and the use of "saba" bananas as a main ingredient.

Ancient history

Cheese goes back to 4000 B.C. The biblical David was asked to deliver "a measure of roasted grain and 10 loaves to his brothers, and 10 cheeses to the field officer" of Saul's army at the time of his battle with Goliath. The emperor Charlemagne discovered blue cheeses—the ancestors of Roquefort—while on a journey within his territory, and a stop at the priory of Rueil-en-Brie enabled him to sample Brie, which was later given to him as a tithe.

Tea cultivation originated in China around 3000 B.C. and spread to Japan by about 780 A.D. It wasn't grown in India until the 1840s. "Tscha," "ch'a," "tcha" are its Chinese names. It's "ocha" in Japanese and "chai" in Hindi. It is thought to have had a practical origin: the Chinese had to boil their drinking water, so to mask its unpleasant taste, they flavored it with herbs.

A rich mythology, full of dancing goats and sleepy monks, was woven around the **coffee** plant's discovery in Arabia in 900 B.C. Coffee is derived from the Arabic "kaweh," meaning strength and vigor or "qahwah" a poetic name for wine. Its brewing is attributed to the Muslims who used it in an attempt to find a non-alcoholic, stimulating drink since the Prophet proclaimed that only abstainers could enter Paradise!


GATEAU St Honoré

Dessert is derived from the French "desservir," to remove the dishes, or clear the table. And ever since, it has been the collective name for sweet dishes as the last course of a meal. The dessert Crème St Honoré was first made as a "gateau" (French for cake) with a custard cream filling for St. Honoré, the one time Bishop of Amiens. He is considered to be the patron saint of pastry cooks and bakers. It is also said that the pastry cook Chiboust (who created the cream) set himself up in the Rue Saint-Honoré Hotel in Paris... hence, the name.

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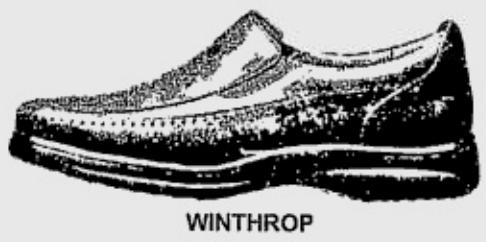
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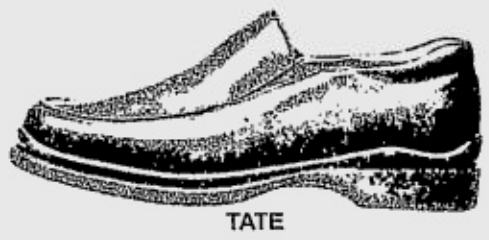
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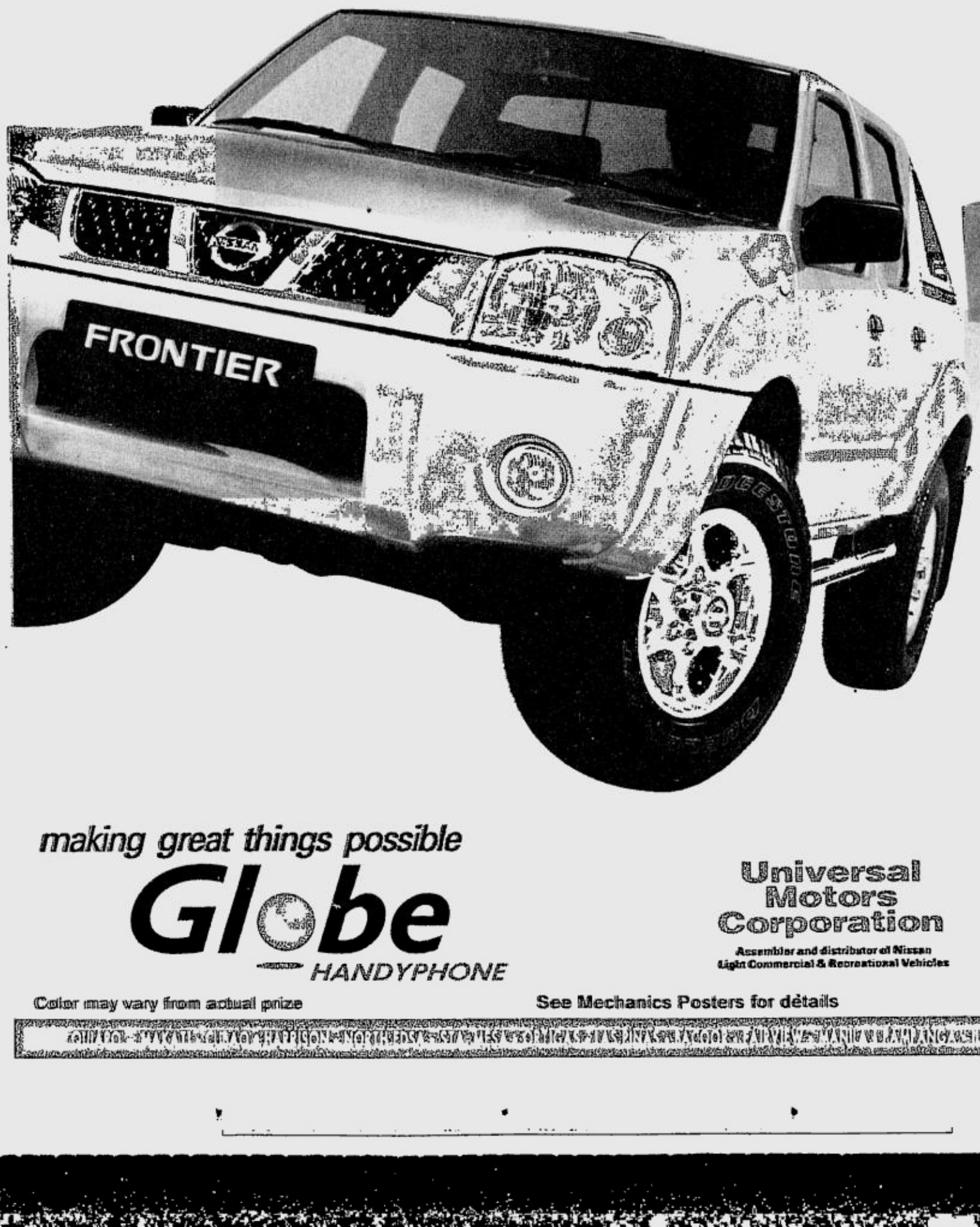

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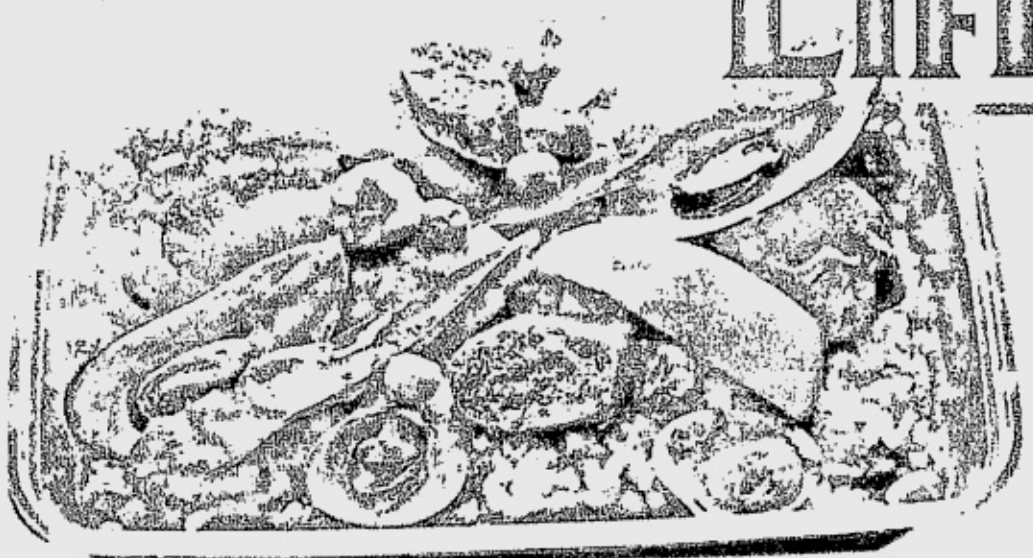

PAECETA

Spanish and Filipino food, prepared just the way Grandma cooks them, are frozen and especially packaged and sealed in microwaveable trays

Heat-and-serve feasts

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

CASH-STRAPPED office workers and students and busy families are relying more and more on frozen entrees to provide quick, convenient, tasty meals. Frozen foods offer no-fuss nutrition—no ingredients to hunt down at the store, no complicated recipes to follow.

Fortunately, it's not all artery-clogging pizzas and rich ice creams. Take Home Meals Kitchen Corporation (tels. 6266251/6721119; e-mail homemeals@pacific.net.ph) that sells heat-and-serve entrees branded as Moving Feasts. Meals include Paelleta, Caldereta, Adobo Doble Seco, Costilla de Adan, Pescado Japones, Arroz ala Cubana, Lengua de Angel, Arroz Tailandes, Callos and Arroz Chino con Pollo. These dishes, whose prices range from P50 to P60, are all packed with rice.

"Moving Feasts are neither fast food nor junk food. These are meals prepared homestyle, just the way Grandma cooks them. They belong to the fastest growing class of food service in the United States called home meal replacements. Our cuisine is a fusion of Spanish and Filipino food. But we can also prepare any cuisine on order," says Boots Reynes, director of sales and marketing.

Both viand and rice are frozen in sealed clear plastic trays that are reheated by Moving Feasts' authorized merchants prior to delivery or serving to end-consumers. This means one can get a meal as fresh and tasty as when it was first prepared—steaming hot straight from the microwave oven, steamer, rice cooker or pressure cooker. Food can also be sold in its frozen form.

Frozen meal providers like Home Meals Kitchen Corporation have begun replacing basic foam trays with metallized and mold-

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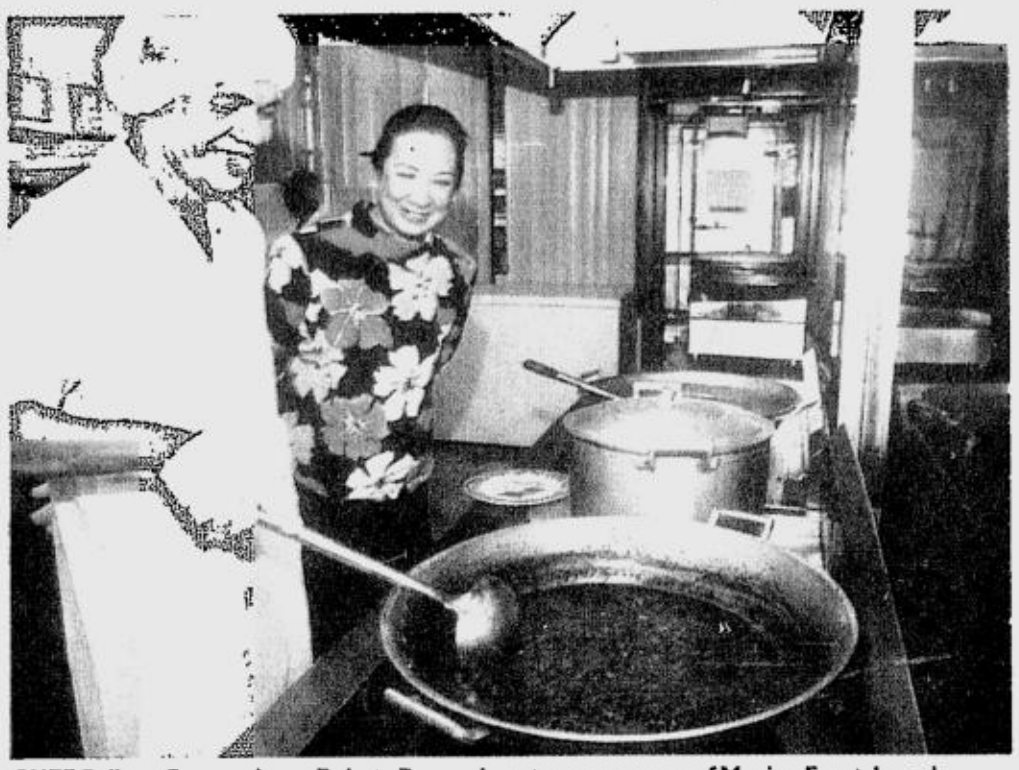
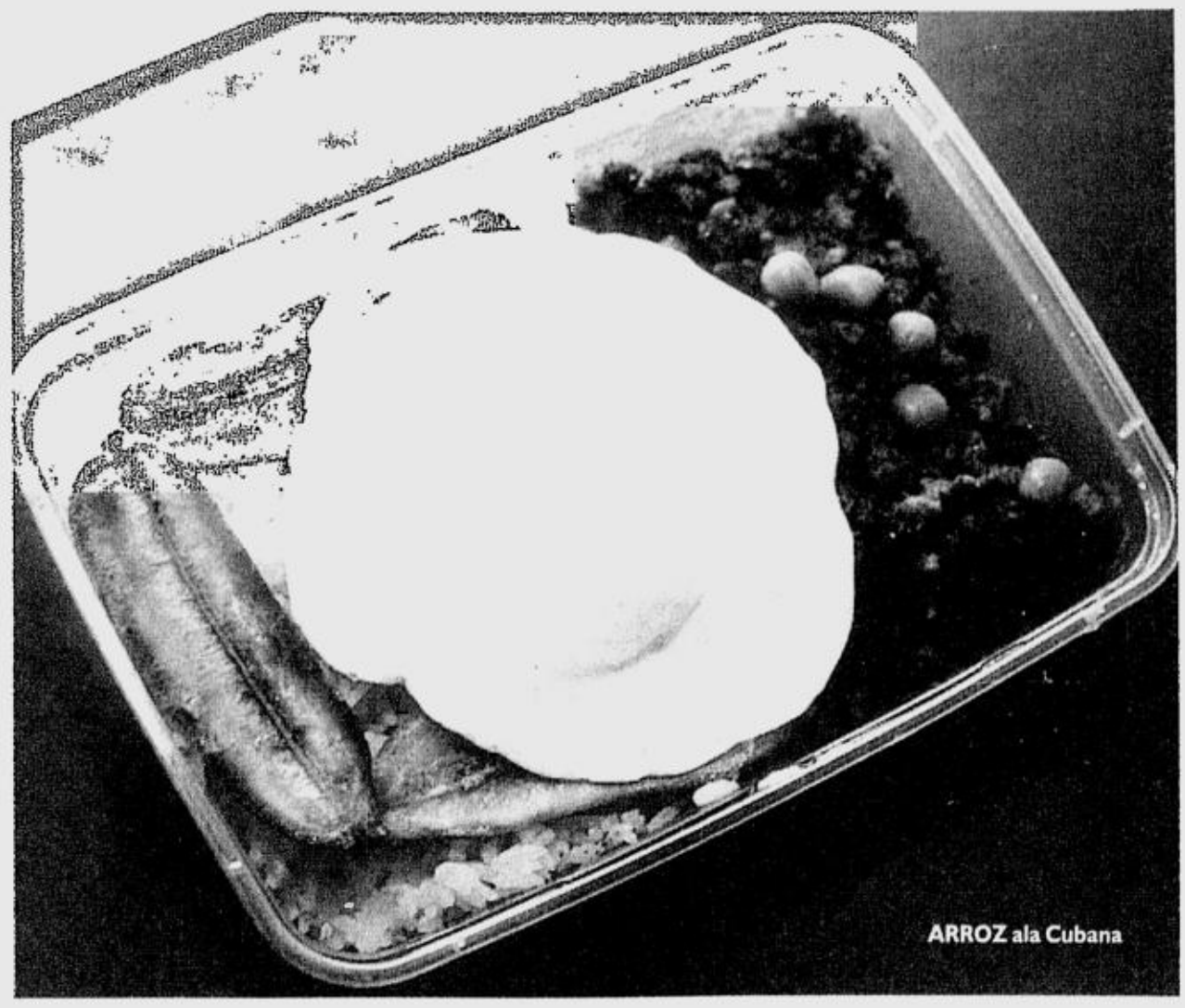


CHEF Solivan Gaspar shows Bobots Reynes how to prepare one of Moving Feasts' meals.



ARROZ ala Cubana

Heat-and-serve feasts

From page F1

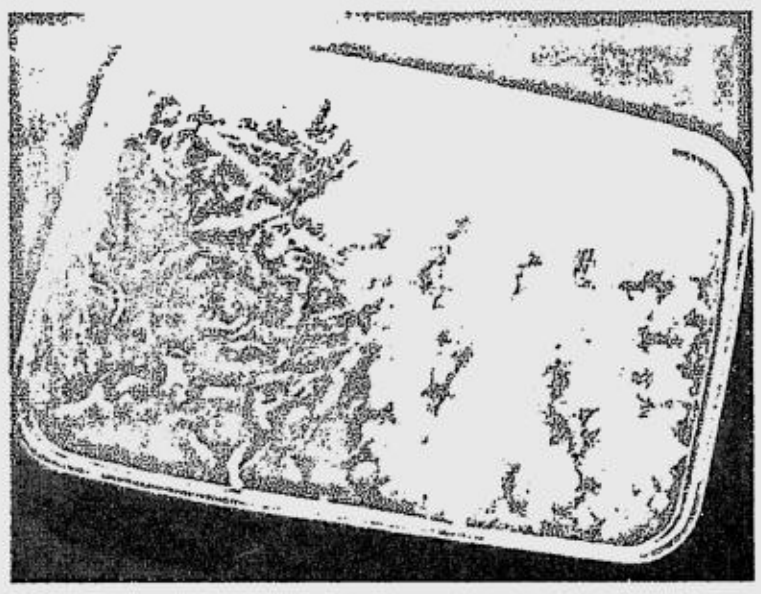
ed fiber trays that function better in the microwave and look better on the table.

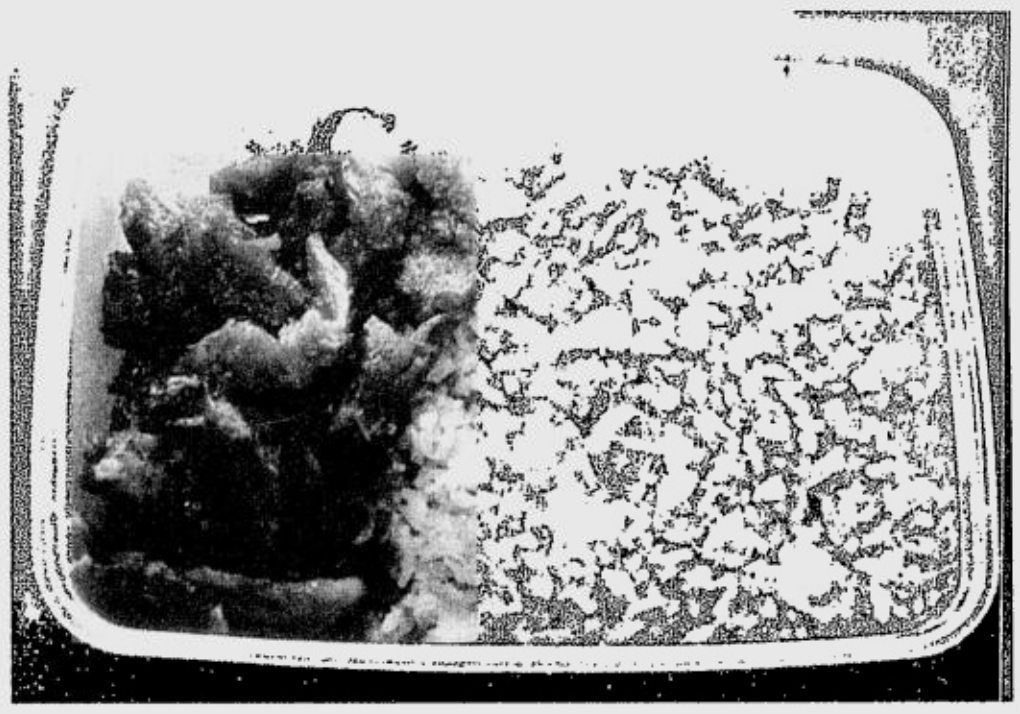
Frozen at -14 degrees Celsius, Moving Feasts come in especially packaged, hermetically sealed, recyclable and microwaveable trays. Tested by the Department of Science and Technology, its shelf life has been proven to be two and a half months. The cooks of Home Meals Kitchen Corp., headed by Solivan Gaspar, don't utilize preservatives in their chilled cooked products. "Only natural organic ingredients in precise measurements are used," Reynes says.

Popular carbo source

Although noodles are also used in Oriental-style entrees, rice is by far the most popular carbohydrate source. And since Filipinos love eating rice, each meal tray of Home Meals Kitchen Corporation contains a generous serving of rice together with one viand.

Parboiled long grain rice is the most popular option for frozen entree manufacturers, Reynes says. She explains that parboiled rice has been subjected to a steam-pressure treatment to gelatinize starch within the rice kernel before milling. This results in firmer, more separate grains better able to withstand processing rigors than regular-milled white rice.





ARROZ Tailandes (above); Adobo Boble Seco (right)

Fresh and tasty

Moving Feasts are prepared in modern and hygienic culinary facilities and under exacting conditions by Home Meals Kitchen Corporation. The secret of the lasting taste and freshness of each meal, Reynes says, lies in the special way viands are slowly cooked and then rapidly frozen for storage in extra frigid freezers. It helps prevent food from decaying or decomposing because of the total elimination of bacteria and voiding of enzyme activity under such extreme temperature conditions.

Home Meals Kitchen Corporation is currently looking for authorized merchants to distribute Moving Feasts in strategic locations. "Since distribution will be by consignment, a merchant needs no additional working capital to operate. All he needs is interest, a microwave oven or steamer and freezer space," Reynes says.

Non-merchant direct clients may order a minimum of 20 assorted meal trays directly from Home Meals Kitchen Corporation.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Sa pangunguna ng: Kasanggayahan Foundation, Inc. at ng Sorsogon Provincial Government

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Complete rice meals in a flash

WITH SEACHAMP'S Hearty Meals, you can have a complete rice meal in four minutes!

Just open a pack, put it in your microwave oven, and begin enjoying an all-natural, low-fat Seacham's seafood meal. Absolutely no preservatives added. You can also heat it in a regular oven or stir-fry in a pan.

Only fresh quality seafood is used in preparing Seachamp's Hearty Meals. You can have your choice of four types: Hearty Meals Seafood Medley, a combination of fish, clam, shrimp and squid meat with mixed vegetables on top of seasoned rice, paella-style; Hearty Meals Fish in Sweet and Sour Sauce, made with battered fish fillet cubes and vegetables, then flavored with sweet and sour sauce generously topped on white rice; Hearty Meals Calamares en su Tinta, a combination of white rice and squid cooked in its own ink, done the Spanish way; and Hearty Meals Shrimps in Teriyaki Sauce, a combination of white rice topped with battered shrimps, mixed vegetables, then seasoned with flavorful teriyaki sauce.

Seachamp's all-natural seafood meals are initially available in the following major supermarkets: Cash & Carry, Unimart, Makati Supermarket, Crossings, Eunilane, Landmark, Hi-Top, Shoppersville and Essel in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Soon they will also be available in selected outlets of SM, WalterMart, Shopwise, Ever, Cherry and Puregold supermarkets.

Ready-to-cook fish products

TGA Foods Corp., a Pampanga-based company pioneering in the commercial production and marketing of export-quality grade fish products, has recently launched three new processed *tilapia* product lines in Metro Manila supermarkets.

Marketed under the brand name Pacific Nile Snapper, the ready-to-cook products, which range from tilapia fillets, smoked whole tilapias and fish nuggets, will first be made available at Robinsons and Big R Hypermart, as well as the Jenra Supermarkets in Pampanga.

TGA has been supplying five-star hotels and restaurants with fillets since 2000 and, through its numerous contract growers in Central Luzon, has managed to expand its institutional clientele locally through tie-ups with food chains and aggressive distributors.

TGA is able to provide consumers with the freshest processed *tilapia* since the fish are brought by the fish-farmers to the processing plant live and are immediately placed in blast freezers before being transferred to the regular freezers in preparation for processing.

According to TGA president Rene G. Tayag, the fish products are targeted at the fast-paced urban centers of Metro Manila in order to augment the fish protein requirements of the growing metro population.

"We sought to address the changing cooking and eating habits of Filipino households by making our products relevant and affordable to consumers," said Tayag.

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala Gold Medalist, Academia de Gastronomas, Madrid, Spain - 1964

and ERNEST REYNOSO GALA

Graduate: Full course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hong Kong Town Gas Culinary Schools

Leni Reynoso-Araullo

Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A.,1974 under Martha and Stanley Wilton. Graduate: Chicago School of Cooking and Catering. Graduate: Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok. Studied cooking in Europe, South America and Hong Kong. Co-Founder with Edna, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March 1963.

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• **NOV. 5 (Wed.) 2:30 - 6:00 pm - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES II.** Learn 8 delicious recipes! Shabu-shabu with 2 sauces; Assorted Crispy Tempura; Grilled Pork and Beef slice; Udon (very special noodles) Fried Tofus in special sauce; Breaded Chicken Wings with vinegar sauce; Japanese mixed fried rice. Plus bonus recipes of complete Sushi bar! **P980.**

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• **NOV. 8 (Sat.)1:00 - 5:30 pm - 6 MONEY MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE II. P 980.** Chinese Sweet Sausage (Lop Chong, Also used for Siopao filling); Phil. Anisado Longaniza; Japanese Chicken Shiitake (Mushroom) Sausage; Peruvian Hot Links; Cherokee Indian Sausage; Smoked Bratwurst. By LENI R. ARAULLO who taught and sold ham and sausages to hotels and restaurants since 1963. **LAST OFFER FOR THE YEAR!**

• **NOV. 11 (Tues.)2:30 - 5:30 pm - VERY SALEABLE FRIED CHICKEN EMPANADA.** Puto Pao; Super Soft mamon and Butterslice; Coconut Macaroons; Delicious Chicken Pies. Baked in Muffin Cups and sold in Top Bakeshop, **P800.** IDEAL FOR HOME BUSINESS!

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• **NOV. 14 & 21 (2 Fri.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - P1,300. MONEY MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES COURSE. ALL NEW! (No. 1 Seller in Manila)** Bake Chocolate Coated Popcorns; Cream cheese filled Cupcakes; Sticky Walnut Brownies ; Chunky Choco Cookies; German style Fudgy cake with icing; Chocolate Turtle Cheese Cake; Smooth Chocolate Mousse; Syrupy Brownies; Walnut Crunch Brownies; New Rocky Road Brownies;Christmas Fudge; Melts in the mouth Tiramisu #2.

• **NOV. 15 (Sat.) 1:00 - 5:30 pm - 7 MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 1.** German (Bratwurst); Hungarian; Kielbasa; Mexican LA., Greek; Sheboygan Brats of Wisconsin; Chorizo Macao; Baguio Sausages, Bonus: Atchara and Hot German Potato Salad. **P980.** By LENI R. ARAULLO

• **NOV. 18 (Tues.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - VERY FLAKY PORTUGUESE (MACAO) STYLE LEMON TARTS.** Casuy; Langka; Macapuno; Mango; Ube Tarts; Empanaditas with sweet filling. IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS **P880.**

• **NOV. 19 (Wed.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - MONEY MAKING FASTFOOD RECIPES!** Yummy chicken Inasal; S &R style Herbed Roasted Magnolia Chicken; Cajun Burgers with special sauce; Spicy Magnolia Chicken Burgers; Baked Potato Chip; Magnolia Chicken Breast with Pesto Linguine **P980.**

• **NOV. 20 (Thurs.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - COFFEE CRUNCH CAKE.** Leni's Prune Walnut Cake with Rum Butter icing; Very light Blueberry Cheesecake; Rum Cake with fresh orange sauce **P880.**

• **NOV. 23 (Sun.) 1:00 - 5:30 pm - MONEY MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3.** Learn 6 of your favorite Foot Long Hot Dogs; Beef Sausage Jerky using ("Tee-Pak") casing used for hotdog making; Whole corned beef served in 5 star hotels and restaurants, Pork Hamonado and Beef de Recado Longanizas; The best Pampanga Pork Tocino. **P980.** By LENI R. ARAULLO. **LAST OFFER FOR THIS YEAR!**

• **NOV. 26 (Wed.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - RESTAURANT RECIPES! BUFFALO WINGS WITH GARLIC DIP.** Linguinne with crab fat topped with Roasted Bell Peppers; Monterey Roast Beef; slices with Kraft Mozzarella Cheese-Tomato-Basil served with French baker's Ciabatta bread; Campbells delicious Shepherd's Pie; Crabsticks and fries with Terivaki sauce; Monterey Pork Tenderloin sticks with hot chili and Satay Sauce **P980.** DELICIOUS RECIPES MADE EASY.

• **NOV. 27 (Thurs.) 2:30 - 6:00 pm - HOW TO DEBONE STUFF A CHICKEN THE EASY WAY WITHOUT SEWING.** Sansrival; Brazo de Mercedes; Complete Salad Bar with different dressings; Lulu William's special Baked Macaroni plus bonus recipes of different Baked Potatoes; Chili Con Carne; Taco Salad. **P 980.**

• **NOV. 29 (Sat.) 2:30 - 5:30 pm - 9 MONEY-MAKING RECIPES FOR TEENS AND ADULT BEGINNERS.** Chocolate chip cookies; Chocolate Crinkles; Butterscoth Brownies; Lengua de Gato; Chewy Mallows Bars; Russian tea cookies; Virgie Panteleon's Date Walnut Cookies, special Polvoron; Lebanese date boat tarts. **P880.**

Morella Reynoso Gala

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Ref buyer is still waiting for her purchase

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

NO amount of apology would make up for the inconvenience and ill will caused by failure to deliver goods or services. M. Bautista (mitosbautista@yahoo.com) related the following experience so other consumers could learn from it.

Bautista said she went to one of the BPI Installment Madness sales at Glorietta on Oct. 16 to buy a refrigerator. The ref was badly needed to store food for her son's birthday on Saturday when some friends were expected to party and sleep over. One well-known store was the only one that promised delivery on that day, so Bautista sealed the deal. She was assured they had the item in stock.

No refrigerator was delivered on Saturday, however. The store people did call that afternoon, but only to say they did not "have the item in stock." They promised to follow up the order with the manufacturer so it could be delivered on Tuesday. But again no ref was delivered.

Bautista said to cancel the order, she would have to go to Glorietta and tell the original store, then arrange purchase with another dealer, which would mean more days of waiting for delivery. "I decided to stick it out with the store and wait for the promised delivery," she said. As of Oct. 21, however, she was still waiting for her ref.

"BPI should (be careful about) dealers they work with, or else their name gets dragged into the mud. These dealers deceive consumers to close a sale." And, in the name of customer goodwill, BPI should set up a consumer welfare desk right at the BPI special sales area.

If the appliance store is still unable to keep its latest promise, we advise Bautista to report the matter to the Department of Trade and Industry-National Capital Region, 12/F Trafalgar Plaza, H. V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City (tel. 8168231 to 33, local 1204).

The refrigerator was badly needed to store food for children's party

Bank fine

From a staff member of an office in the University of the Philippines-Diliman: "My deposit account is with Land Bank-Philcoa branch. On my way to the office one morning, I decided to withdraw money from a branch within the campus. To my chagrin, the teller imposed a P50 fine/penalty and automatically deducted it from my account. When I asked what the penalty was for, the teller explained that it was because my passbook was from another LBP branch."

We verified with two other banks and learned that, for the protection and security of depositor's accounts, passbooks in general are only negotiable at the issuing bank branch.

If you are a holder of a gift certificate (GC), heed the advice of "Mother-and-Son" of kuyafish@yahoo.com who wrote that three gift certificates were stolen from them while they were shopping at Landmark. They said they discovered the loss only when they were about to pay the cashier with the GCs. The loss was immediately reported to customer service so cashiers would be alerted. Their names were on the certificates, they informed Lilian Espacio and Fely Caranay of customer service.

Mother-and-Son wrote: "When I followed it up later, I was told by the customer service supervisor that the gift certificates were transacted on the very same day we reported the loss and requested them to alert their cashiers."

We personally called up the supervisor and this was her reply: "Even if we disseminated the information to the cashiers, we couldn't have done anything to stop the transaction. There were just too many cashiers on the different floors. *Ang trabaho namin*, acceptance *lang. Pangit naman kung maglalagay kami ng* sign *sa harap ng kahera kung saan nakasulat ang pangalan ng* certificate owner."

The customer service supervisor advised GC holders to note down the number of the certificate. The GC numbers are filed in a master list and encoded in the computer for verification purposes, but the names of GC recipients are not since GC buyers do not have to tell the store who they are giving them to.

Consumers need advice

If any reader has the answer to the query of our letter-sender, please e-mail it to us so we can pass it on.

A concerned father wrote: "We bought a secondhand set of encyclopedia from a thrift shop in Quezon City. What is the most practical and effective way of disinfecting these books before we let our children, who are all elementary pupils, use them? We are planning to wipe the plastic covers with 70-percent alcohol, but what about the inside pages? Exposing them to the sun seems to be an alternative, but we don't have enough space. Our roof could be the best place, but it scares me just to think of hauling 30 thick volumes to the roof."

Filipino in Consumer Congress

Vic del Fierro Jr., president of the Coalitions for Consumer Protection and Welfare Inc., represented the Philippines in the five-day World Consumers Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. Organized by the London-based Consumers International, the congress was attended by representatives of about 250 non-government consumer and government organizations from 115 countries.

Del Fierro reported: "I am expected to make a bid for the holding of the next World Consumers Congress in Manila. While attending the five-day series of plenary sessions and capacity-building and training programs, I would also present a resolution before the participants appealing to the United States Pepsi Co to honor and pay its liability to Filipino consumers (holders of bottle caps with winning numbers) who have yet to receive their winnings from the 1992 Pepsi Number Fever contest."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

Bakeshop donates to Chosen Children Village

SINCE October is children's month, Goldilocks Bakeshop is donating a portion of its *mamon* and *ensaymada* sales until Nov. 14 to the Chosen Children Village Foundation.

The Chosen Children Village is a unique concept in the care of disabled children. Founded in 1989 by Lita Fullerton, the village was designed to provide a home environment in caring for kids within a family setting. At Chosen Children they have created a community of love, compassion, and growth among the children and staff.

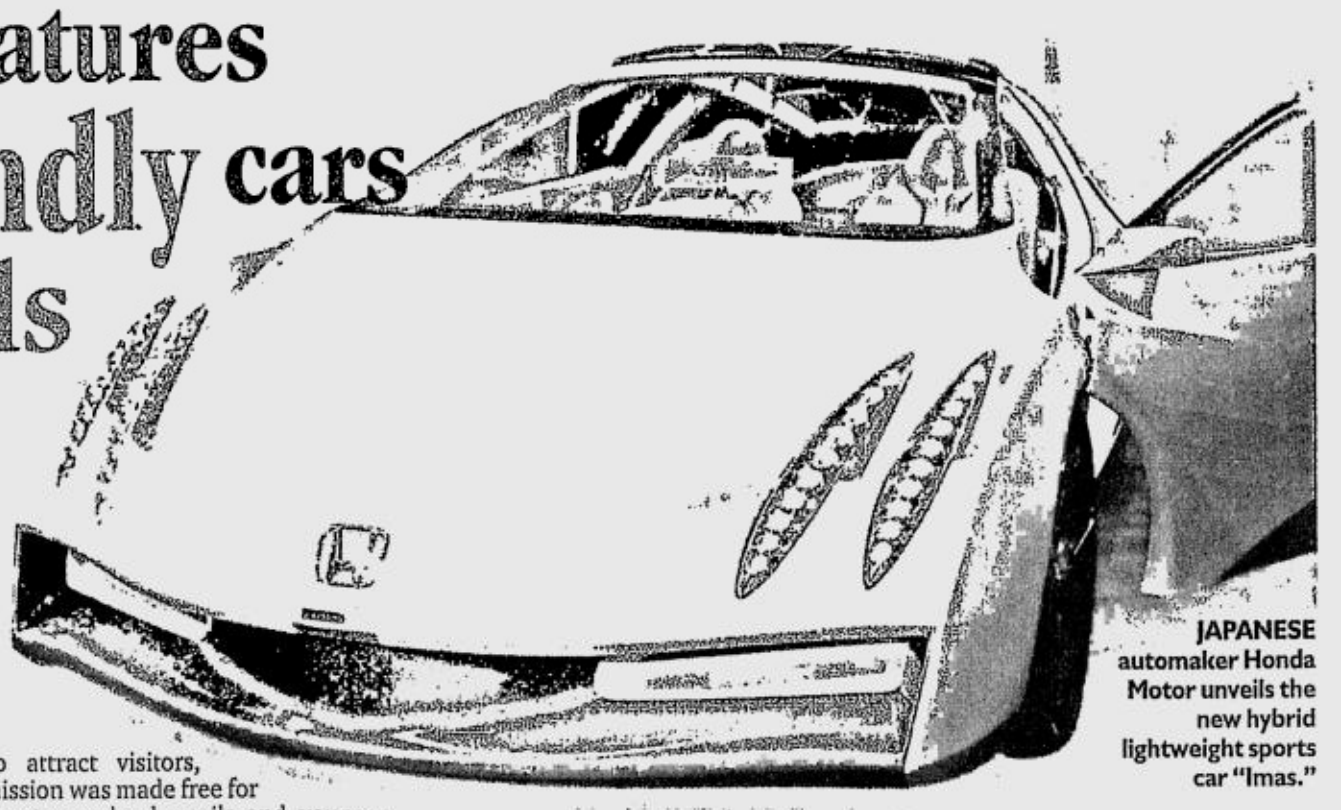
The Village is located in Silang, Cavite. The 2.2-hectare parcel of land now houses cottages, a chapel, a school, a clinic and a rehabilitation center. Funding has not been easy, however, and there is a continuing need to finance the village so more children will be able to thrive in a home environment.

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Tokyo Motor Show features environment-friendly cars with alternative fuels



JAPANESE automaker Honda Motor unveils the new hybrid lightweight sports car "Imas."

MAKUHARI, Japan—The Tokyo Motor Show drew tens of thousands of people here Saturday, featuring environment-friendly cars with alternative fuels, including fuel cells, "hybrid" power and cleaner diesel.

After a three-day preview for media and industry representatives, the biennial extravaganza was opened to the public at this suburban convention town by Tokyo Bay with organizers hoping for an upturn in visitors.

Steady inflow of people

The turnout has been on the decline since 1991 when 2.01 million people visited the Makuhari Messe convention hall. The organizers have estimated 1.4 million to visit the 12-day show, up 130,000 from the last edition.

"We got off to a solid start. With the steady inflow of people, we are on course to hit the target," said an official of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (Jama), which organized the show.

The first day's attendance totaled 122,500, up nearly 20,000 from the 2001 show, the organizers said.

JAPAN'S Toyota Motor Corp. president Fujio Cho poses by its concept vehicle "Fine-N."

NISSAN Motor Co. president and chief executive Carlos Ghosn stands near Nissan Fuga.

To attract visitors, admission was made free for elementary school pupils and younger children for the first time.

There is a discount for those entering the exhibition site after 3 p.m., four hours before the closing time.

On display

A total of 613 cars, produced by 60 Japanese and 13 foreign automakers, are on display. Of them, 38 Japanese-developed cars are getting their world premiere. Foreign carmakers are introducing 50 models that have never been seen in Japan before.

Noticeable among the vehicles is an emphasis on alternative fuel sources and other technical innovations.

Transition

The car industry is seen to be in a transition from gasoline-powered cars to fuel-cell models and it is set to present new ideas about how cars could be powered.

At a nearby park, visitors were encouraged to test-drive fuel-cell and hybrid brands.

Many Japanese makers are concentrating on hybrid cars powered by a gasoline engine at a high speed and by an electric motor in a low-speed range. But their European and American rivals are seen to be more focused on less costly development of low-emission diesel engines.

Showcase

Japan's top carmaker Toyota Motor Corp. has unveiled a fuel-cell-powered passenger car with a range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) on a single fuel charge.

Honda Motor Co. Ltd. is presenting a concept sedan with its clean fuel-cell technology, while Nissan Motor, controlled by Renault SA of France, is highlighting a concept car fitted with a thin lithium-ion battery to save space.

US giant General Motors Corp. is showcasing a vehicle combining fuel-cell power with new electronic control technology. *AFP*

Shell introduces diesel for cleaner air

GREATER Manila can now breathe easier, thanks to the introduction of Shell Diesoline Ultra (SDU)—a low-sulfur diesel formulated for clean power and pure performance with reduced exhaust emissions in diesel-fueled vehicles.

SDU boasts of being the cleanest and purest diesel fuel available in the market today with its reduced sulfur content of 0.05 percent strict compliance with the 2004 Clean Air Act. With 75 percent reduced sulfur dioxide exhaust, SDU significantly lessens pollutants that pose great health risks to Filipinos.

Commitment

According to Shell's fuels brand manager Randolph Del Valle, the launch of SDU is part of the company's commitment to improve the quality of air in the country.

Says Del Valle: "Because of the low sulfur content, carbon deposits in your engine are lessened, and so your engine will have less exhaust emissions. This means cleaner air for everyone."

Apart from reduced sulfur, SDU is the only diesel fuel that has special cleaning properties that eliminate carbon deposits commonly produced by other diesel fuels. It is also the only diesel that is super refined to be clean and pure, with no impurities nor contaminants.

This breakthrough means that not only will your diesel engine emit less smoke, it will also run better and smoother, with greater fuel efficiency.

Promo campaign

Del Valle reveals SDU is embarking on a transport group-based promotional campaign. "We will be holding caravan tours in main jeepney and Megataxi terminals as well as truck stops throughout the greater Manila area," he says. "We want them to know about the benefits of the product as well as its positive effects on the environment."

The growing concerns on the long-term effects of pollution due to vehicular emissions prompted Shell to become more vigilant in developing, producing and promoting acceptable fuel products.

As a caring innovator, it recently forged a partnership with the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CIA-Asia), a regional multisectoral movement on air quality management launched by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, to make true its promise of earth-friendly fuel such as Shell Diesoline Ultra.

Further stressing Shell's commitment to serve the environment, says Del Valle: "We are hoping the launch of SDU will mean lesser smoke emissions for cleaner air yet delivers the true power of diesel. Shell Diesoline Ultra is *purong lakas ng* diesel!"

Honda unleashes CR-V with Realtime 4WD

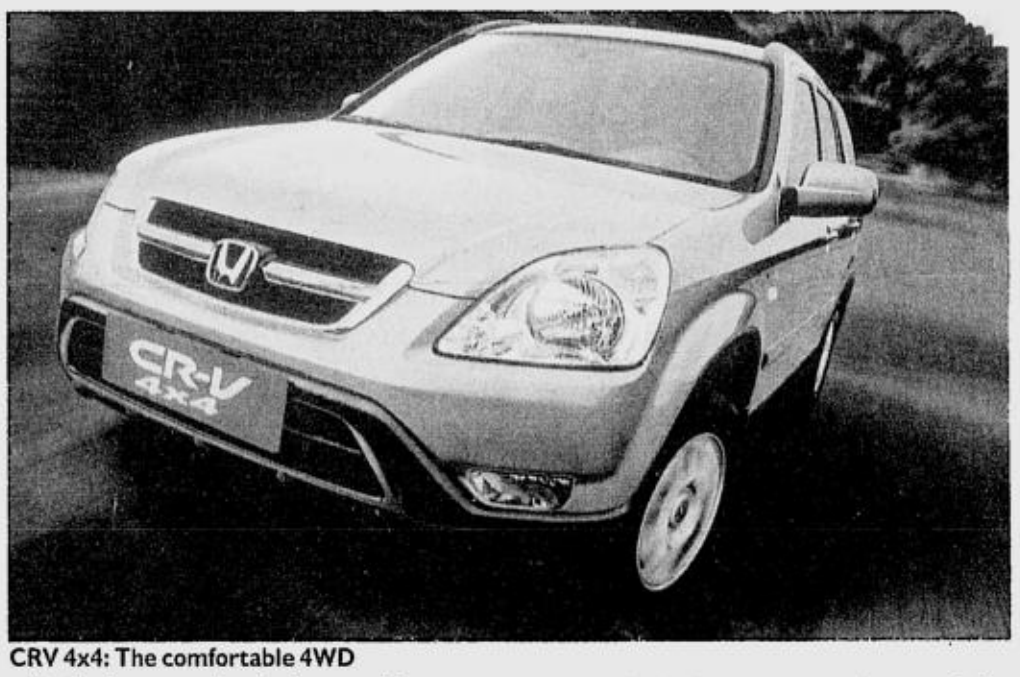
HONDA Car Philippines recently released the second generation CR-V with Realtime 4WD, dubbed as "The Comfortable 4x4."

Reputed as the most comfortable sport utility vehicle (SUV) in town, the new CR-V 4x4 lives up to its name with its famed car-like handling and drive and lush interior features, ideal for traveling within the city limits and on long-distance road adventures.

With the CR-V 4x4, all roads can be conquered with the Realtime 4WD Dual Pump System that intelligently detects various road surfaces and automatically engages all-wheel power whenever needed.

The CR-V's responsive handling and maximum traction and smooth car-like driveability allows versatility in all road conditions. This real power-on-demand is also brought about by the CR-V's 2.0-liter DOHC i-VTEC (intelligent Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control System) engine.

The i-VTEC DOHC engine, which is compact, lightweight and quiet, is the fusion of VTC (variable timing control) and VTEC innovation. While VTEC electronically switches valve timing and valve lift to match high-, mid- and low-speed ranges, VTC provides continuous phase control of the intake valve according to engine load rotation. This Honda powerplant innovation provides ample power and torque, all while producing cleaner emissions and high fuel efficiency.



CRV 4x4: The comfortable 4WD

Fresh look

Sporting a fresh look and bodycolor bumpers, side protector moldings, door mirrors and handles along with a sporty bodycolor spare-tire cover, the CR-V 4x4 will indeed conquer the roads in style.

New standard fittings include fog lamps and a third brake light for enhanced safety and visibility when needed. A new exclusive alloy wheel design completes the new sportier styling of the CR-V 4x4.

Main focus

With the road comfort as the main focus, the CR-V 4x4 features space and functionality with the comforts and convenience of a luxury sedan. Plush leather seating and metallic highlights on panels and door switches give off a fresh sense of style that combines sport and luxury. A new Pioneer CD/cassette receiver with motorized face and variable color display provides relaxing tunes and a refreshing view inside the CR-V 4x4.

Emphasizing comfort and convenience, front captain seats with armrests allow a center walk-through and a fold-away center table with cupholders and seat under tray for storing car clutter come as standard offerings. Roomy cargo space with various compartments and accessories such as the fold-away picnic table and 12-volt accessory sockets in the front and rear ends provide utility in the CR-V 4x4.

Real safety

Real adventure comes with real safety. Based on the Real-World Crash Test at Honda R&D, the CR-V achieved the world's highest level of crash safety performance. The standard four-wheel disk brake integrates ABS (antilock braking system) for additional security in avoiding accidents, especially when forced to make sudden stops.

An added Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) with Brake Assist provides a good balance for brake response. Also, seat belts with pretensioners and dual SRS front airbags are standard equipment in the CR-V 4x4.

Popular

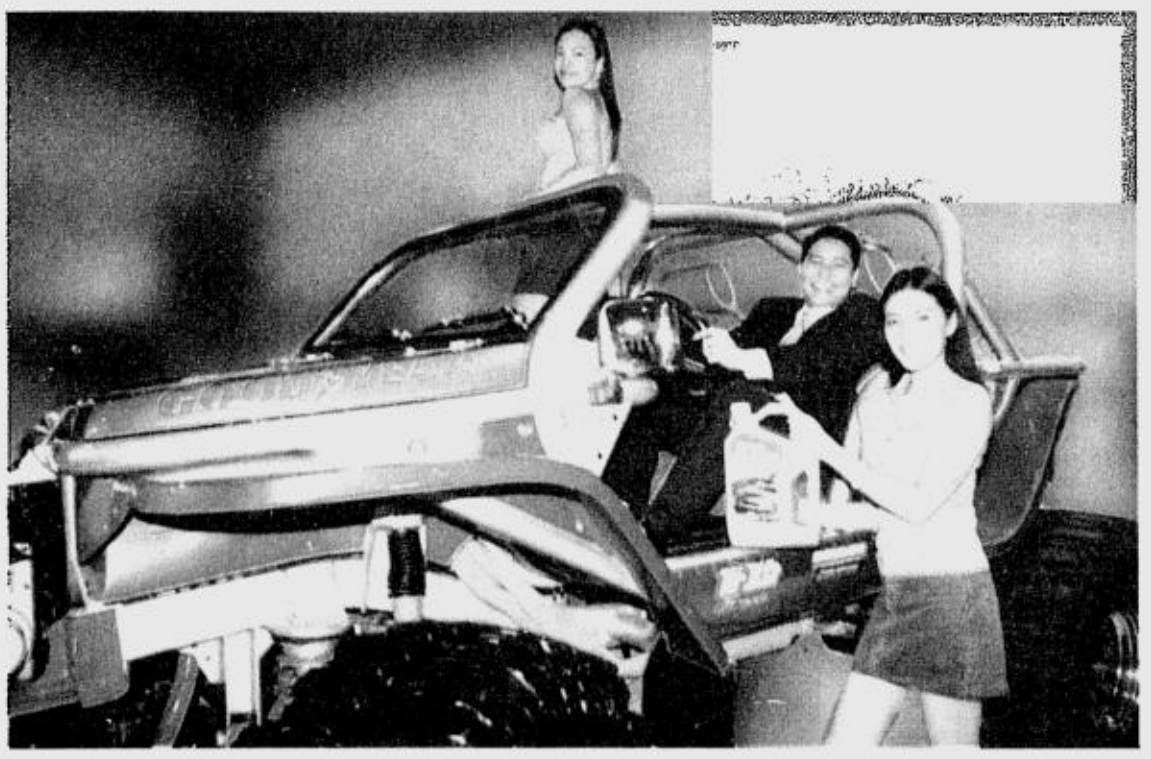
Launched early in 2002, the CR-V immediately became one of the most popular vehicles in the country, having sold 16,196 units as of September this year. This is a testament to the Filipino motorists' satisfaction with the CR-V and Honda's commitment to serve quality products to valued consumers.

The CRV 4x4 comes in 2.0-liter manual and automatic transmissions in new exclusive and sporty colors—ashton, silver, titanium silver metallic and night hawk black metallic. In addition to the three standard colors, the CR-V 4x4 is also available in special pearl white mica.

The following are the CR-V 4x4's suggested retail prices:

- 2.0 li Manual Transmission—P1,168,000
- 2.0 li Automatic Transmission—P1,218,000

Additional P15,000 for the pearl white mica.



CAR SHOW AT SM MEGAMALL
Jojo Sacdalan, lubricants marketing manager of Caltex Philippines, takes the wheel of a 4x4 custom car during the opening of the 2003 Caltex Delo Sports Truck and Custom Car Show at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. With him are Delo Sports models Michelle and Mod.

Low-sulfur Diesel Max launched

BEATING the January 2004 Clean Air Act target by almost two months, market leader Petron Corp. recently launched its Low Sulfur Diesel Max during the inauguration of its Batasan Hills service station in Quezon City.

The new clean-air diesel is initially available in Metro Manila and in the provinces by November, two months ahead of the government directive to have the low-sulfur diesel available nationwide.

Proprietary cleaning traits

Technologically advanced Low Sulfur Diesel Max has a lower sulfur content of only 0.05 percent and contains a unique smoke-reducing agent that provides superior performance and engine protection.

Higher performance is derived from the new diesel's ability to keep fuel injection systems clean to prevent buildup of residues and removal of carbon deposits in the fuel system through its proprietary-cleaning characteristics.

Furthermore, the unique combination of a smoke- and particulate-reducing agent, provides instant reduction in smoke and particulates that are sustained and even improved after prolonged use of the new diesel product.

Maintaining engine power

Aside from the immediate reduction of black smoke emission and particulates, another unique performance feature of Diesel Max is its ability to maintain and restore engine power and fuel economy levels. It also provides effective antifoam performance and protection against the formation of fuel emulsions for improved fuel efficiency.

Because of its sulfur, Diesel Max has all the features that protect the engine from corrosion and wear. It contains a lubricity enhancer that guards the diesel injection pumps from wear and tear while maintaining its superior features. This lubricity enhancing agent coats the fuel system components with a barrier between moving metal parts to provide unmatched protection.

This important milestone reinforces Petron's commitment to cleaner and high-performance fuels that benefit consumers and enhance the quality of life of people in general.

P6-B investments

Petron is investing P6 billion in its Bataan refinery to produce diesel with the lowest sulfur content in the Philippines in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

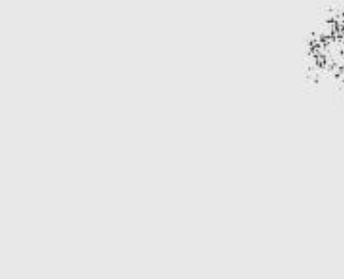
Furthermore, these new facilities give Petron the advantage of direct quality control in the production of Clean Air Act compliant fuels.

HONDA

The Power of Dreams

Real Time

REALTIME 4WD



At the heart of the new 4x4 CR-V is the Realtime 4WD system that automatically engages front and rear wheels in demanding conditions for responsive handling and maximum traction, all the while providing smooth, car-like driveability.

Photo may vary from actual unit.

The new Honda CR-V 4x4.

For details, call or visit any of the following authorized Honda dealerships nationwide.

Metro Manila

Honda Cars Makati, Inc. Tel. Nos. (02) 852 4181 to 82
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Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel. Nos. (02) 712 6850 to 61, 731 1532, 732 8556, 732 8166
Honda Cars Shaw Tel. Nos. (02) 717 1681 to 85
Honda Cars Manila Tel. No. (02) 562 4548
Honda Cars Fairview Tel. Nos. (02) 935 2655, 935 2629
Honda Cars Marikina Tel. Nos. (02) 998 0512, 998 1142

Provincial

Honda Cars Pangasinan Tel. Nos. (075) 522 1488
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Tel. Nos. (032) 231 350[illegible]
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Tel. Nos. (049) 562 77[illegible]
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. Tel. Nos. (082) 221 740[illegible]
Honda Cars Negros Occidental Tel. Nos. (034) 441

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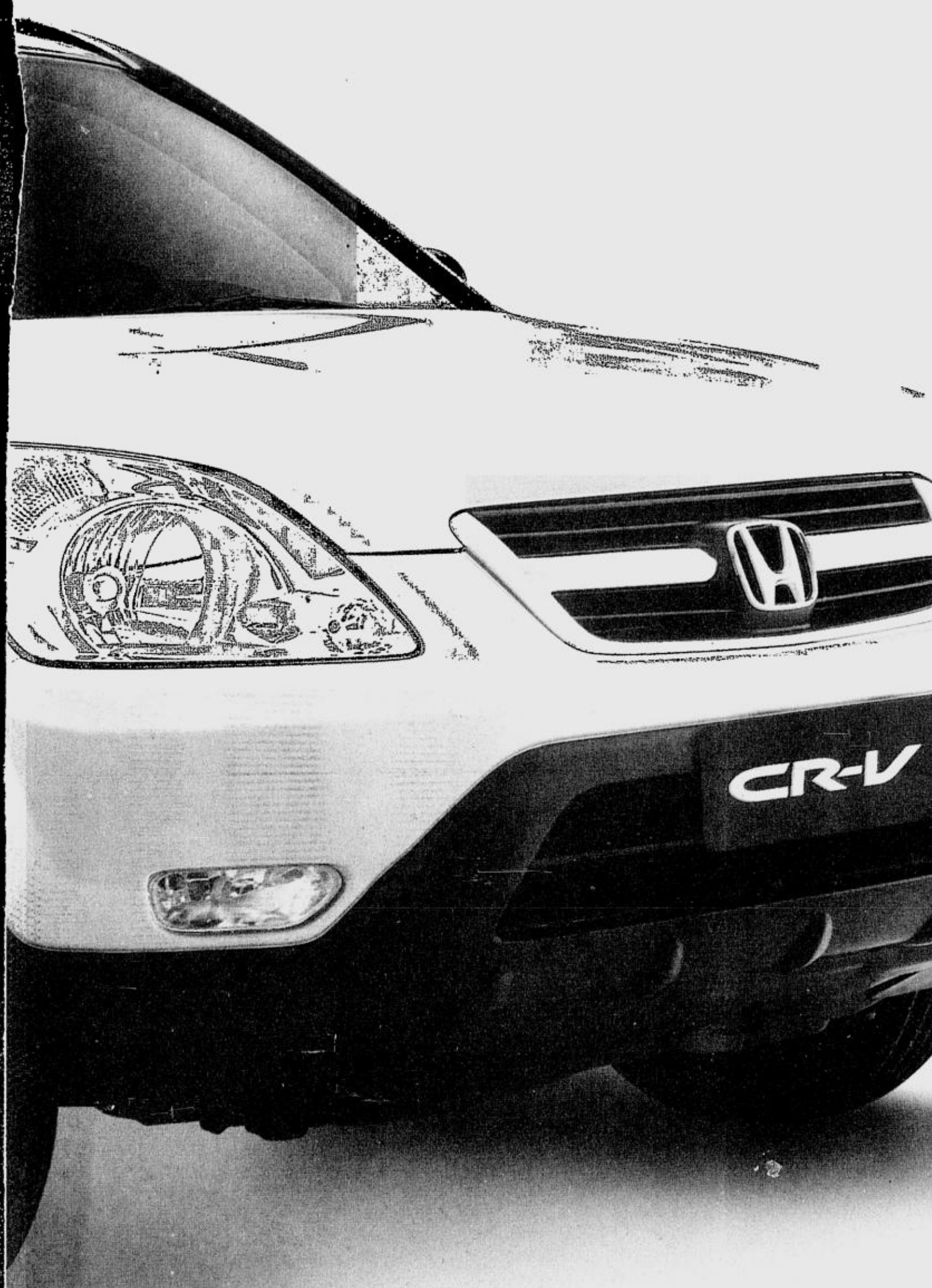
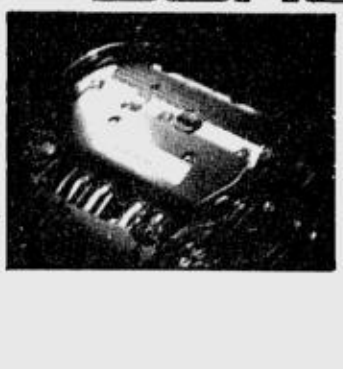
4WD Power.



i-VTEC DOHC



An ideal balance of power and fuel economy in the breakthrough 2.0-liter DOHC i-VTEC engine achieves ultimate performance in response to driving demands.

The Comfortable 4x4.

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MOTORING

Is the bull bar just a lot of bull?

By Tessa R. Salazar

INDIGENOUS creatures roam the Outback of Australia, so it's not surprising to find indigenous "machines" roaming among these animals, as well. Take the Aussies' pickups and 4WD sport utility vehicles, for example.

Owners put in what is called a grille guard, or a bull bar, to protect the vehicle's front end in the event of an unfortunate collision with road-crossing animals such as kangaroos and cattle. The bull bars are supposed to protect the front accessories, such as headlights.

The bull bar is also called the "kangaroo bar" or "roo bar" in Australia. However, it also has other names, depending on the type of frontal protection it is designed for. The "bumper replacement Vehicle Frontal Protection Systems" (VFPS) is also designed to protect against animal collisions, and replaces the front bumper. An "over bumper VFPS" protect against low-speed city collisions, and the front bumper is retained.

A "nudge bar" is designed to protect against low-speed car park collisions and is also used as support for additional driving lights through a light U-shaped tubular bar fitted in front of the bumper as defined at ecars.com.au.

Totally unnecessary

The Australian bull bars, however, are on a collision course with nature conservationists, who protest that bull bars are totally unnecessary, and even impinge on the animals' rights as the "real residents" of Australia. Motorists plying the outback have been asked to shift their focus to being more concerned with preservation of "life," rather than the preservation of their vehicles' headlights.

That's one way of saying outback drivers should navigate more carefully, and respect animals crossing the road.

Collision effect

Bull bars have inevitably found their way into cities and suburbs. Though there is no accurate data on the number of human pedestrians bull bars have killed or maimed, experimental studies suggest that the collision effect on pedestrians and cyclists of adding bull bars is similar to doubling the actual speed of the vehicle. Thus, urban motorists who couldn't do away with their metal bull bars have been urged to replace them with soft plastic bull bars.

The Pedestrian Council of Australia revealed last year that bull bars are attributable to up to 20 percent of road deaths involving pedestrians and drivers. It further added that research by the Federal Office of Road Safety found bull bars defeated vehicles' safety crumple zones and caused damage to other cars and injury to their occupants.

Favorable impact

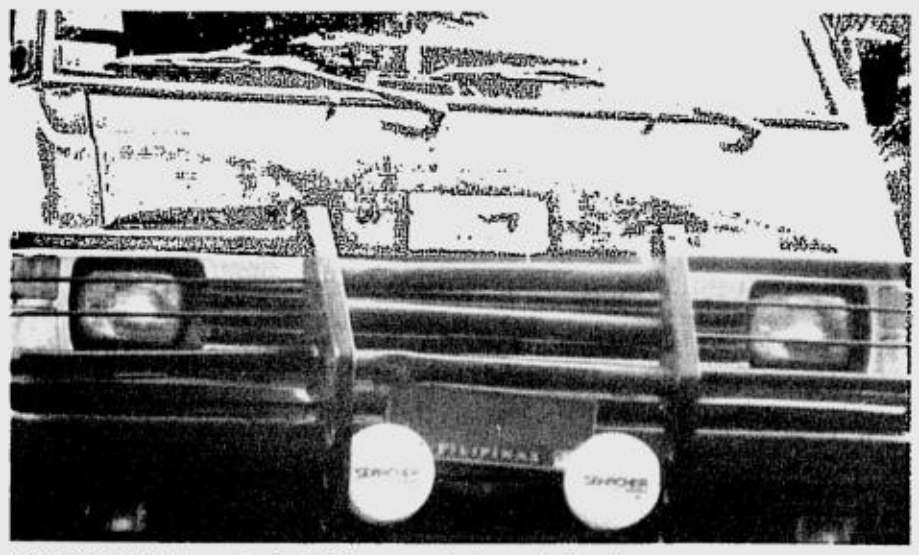
Proponents against bull bars in Australia have even put up road safety advertisements urging people to tear off a pictured baby's head "to see what a bull bar can do." The PCA said the ad has had considerable favorable impact on the community.

Because of the rugged character it bestows upon vehicles, bull bars have also become a popular, albeit unnecessary and even dangerous, accessory in the Philippine motoring industry. Many see the dangers posed by bull bars on pedestrians and fellow motorists magnified in Philippine driving conditions, what with the lack of driving discipline and inadequate road safety facilities.

Greatest chance of collision

"Motorists have the greatest chance of colliding with children, because the latter are unpredictable," says automotive technologist Alex P. Loinaz. He adds one temporary solution could be imposing speed limits in areas where children are most likely to cross.

But then, Filipino motorists rarely, if ever, observe speed limits.



AN IMPACT that pushed a bull bar wrecked a van's front.

Affordability

Bull bars' accessibility is helped by its relative affordability. A set of bull bars could cost anywhere between P4,000 and P30,000, depending on the materials used and the coverage area of the bull bar.

A leading auto insurance company said the add-on premium that a vehicle owner would have to pay the insurance company for a bull bar is anywhere between P600 and P1,500.

Lito Lazaga of Standard Auto Insurance estimates that about 40 percent of its newly insured SUV owners proceed to accessory shops and fit in bull bars, regardless if such accessories' safety has been tested and approved by the vehicle's designers.

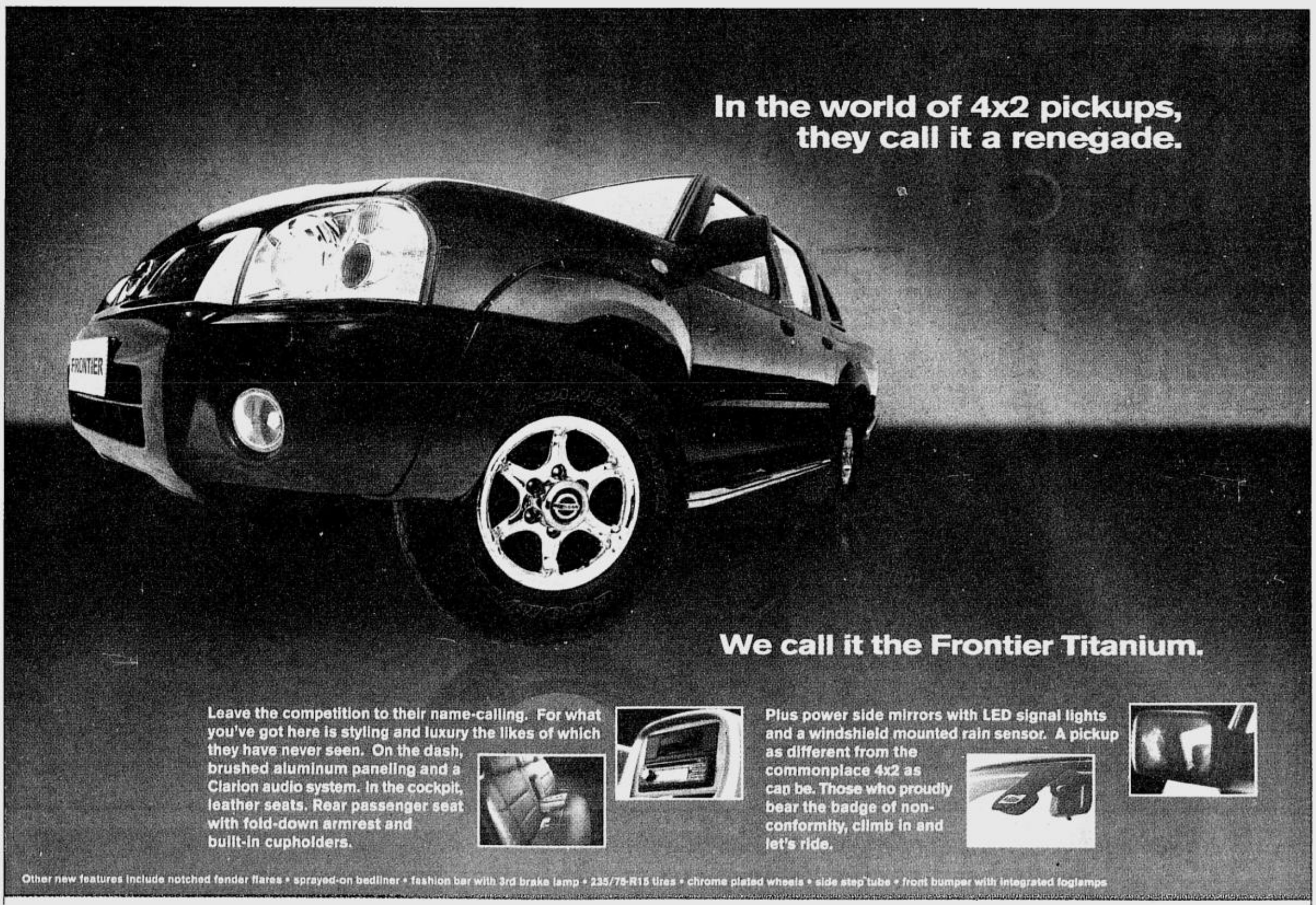
Then, in the provinces, another 25 percent of insured pickups have bull bars attached, Lazaga says. He adds that 85 percent of his clients with bull bars who encountered frontal collisions had destroyed headlights and front faces, more than doubling the economic loss compared to the absence of bull bars.

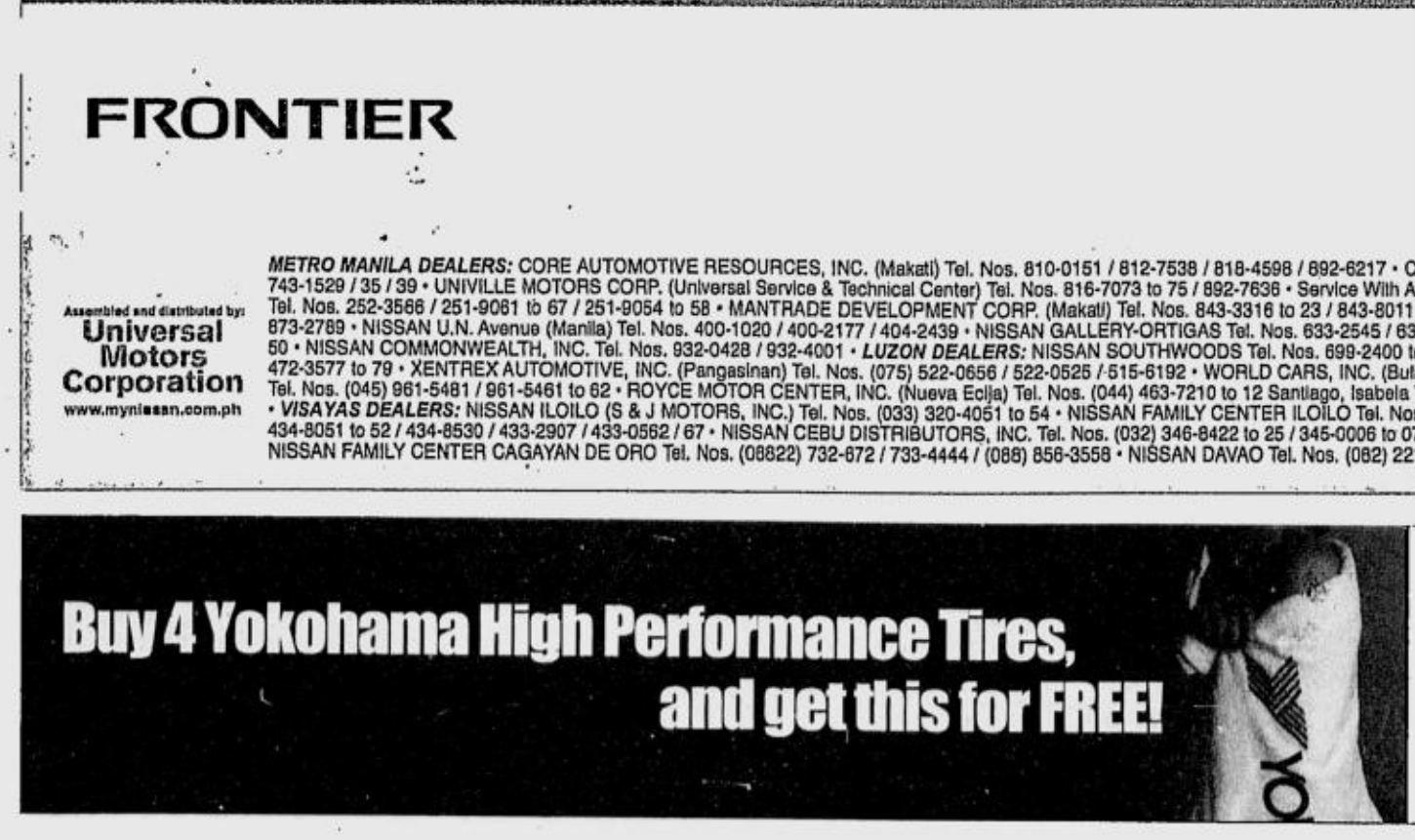
But then, owners don't have to worry about such losses. It is the auto insurance that shoulders the damages.

Says Loinaz: "If there were no bull bar, the point of impact is lower, exactly at the point of where the bumper is. Thus, only the vehicle's lower extremities would be affected."

Loinaz produced photos wherein an SUV, equipped with a bull bar, rear-ended another car. The entire rear of the car was wrecked. The force of the impact also wrecked the SUV's hood that would have

IS THE/ H2





Toyota zaps rivals in Tokyo Motor Show

EACH time I go to the Tokyo Motor Show in Japan's Makuhari Messe at Chiba Prefecture, I am always amazed at how the event's organizers can do such much in the name of precision. Everything is done clockwork-style. A minute is a minute is a minute. You are late by a measly minute, you are heckled left and right by your bus mates; your Japanese host will forever hurl killer glances at you that, if you don't watch it, it's going to last for the rest of your stay. In Japan, a minute lost is a tour guide's nightmare.

I was at the Tokyo Motor Show again last week, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines. I was late but just once during the hectic but still enjoyable one-week schedule of trips to Toyota's technology-oriented functions and soul-enriching outings that I will all hold precious for the rest of my life. It was my sixth visit to the world's most applauded motor show since 1993 and yet, my interest in it has not waned one teeny-weeny bit—what of the sight of unbelievable flashy cars in all their usual splendor and glossy majesty. Just seeing Toyota's latest array of vehicles, many of them rolling out of the assembly lines five years from now, is poetry in motion.

Who gives a hoot to Japanese punctuality? Gosh, every Tokyo Motor Show is different from the rest so that what's a minute lost when it's spent gawking at Toyota's state-of-the-art hybrid Prius, or the single-person "Personal Mobility" (PM), which changes shape and body color as it moves.

Ah, I've got a feeling. Toyota hotshots Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus made sure they'd never let me down once I gave them my pillow for the magical mystery tour that was the Tokyo Motor Show. Do I see Alfred Ty, Vince Socco and Nobuharu Tabata smiling from ear to ear?

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

* * *

The ongoing Tokyo Motor Show which opened to the public on Oct. 25 does not end until Nov. 5. But already, hundreds of thousands have seen the latest models from the world's top automakers, not to include concept cars that defy imagination. Even motorcycles have made a statement this year; those on display are heart-stoppers. The old designs are back, particularly the spokes on wheels that used to be the pre-war fad. "The first time I saw them (vintage, antique designs), I got floored—almost!" said Junep Ocampo, a veteran motoring journalist who will shortly put up a motorcycle magazine in the land.

But of course among the world's top automakers present this year, Toyota, Japan's undisputed king of carmakers, had the most talked-about showroom; to call it a knockout is an understatement. During its unveiling on Oct. 22 before the world's elite automotive writers, Toyota Motor Corp. president Fujio Cho called the Toyota Showroom a "presentation of a number of vehicles that incorporate a diversity of new concepts." He said Toyota's exhibits this year would focus on two major points.

First, the Lexus brand. Second, Toyota's belief in the potential of hybrid technology.

* * *

The several new Lexus brands on display at Makuhari Messe spoke volumes of how future vehicles would shape our tastes. Unfurled in 1989 in North America, Lexus has since expanded to Europe and the rest of the world. Lexus is Toyota's answer to what a true premium car is and its reputation for being so has become everyday talk among car buffs the world over. The beautiful irony of it is, Lexus will only go massive distribution in Japan in 2005 punctuated by an aggressive sales network; who could have thought that Toyota, now the world's third-ranked carmaker behind General Motors and Ford, would first attempt to crack the American market before letting loose its premium brand such as the Lexus on its shores? Confidence I call it. Toyota has loads of that.

Because Toyota had pioneered in the development of the hybrid car, the car giant has not stopped pursuing further technological studies on this. "With the 21st century being referred to as the century of the environment, two crucial issues facing the world are: 1) initiatives to aid global environmental preservation; and, 2) energy security," said Cho. "To repeat what I have said before, Toyota believes that without a high level of environmental response, the automobile has no future."

The 63-year-old Cho, who is generally credited with the smashing success of the best-selling Altis with his engineering expertise and teamwork-oriented style of leadership, said "the preservation of the global environment is a top priority management issue of Toyota. With regard to the development of an eco-car (ecology-oriented car), we are working on the development of new-generation hybrid systems using hybrid technology as the core technology."

* * *

To car aficionados, Toyota's hybrid Prius is powered mostly by battery and electric, with gasoline a mere aid. In the near future, the hybrid car will run without gas. The Prius rolled out in the freeways of Los Angeles in 1997 and has since made a foothold on American soil.

"The latest product of these efforts is Toyota's new-generation hybrid system THS II, which is fitted in the new Prius," said Cho. "Using the Hybrid Synergy Drive concept, which represents a simultaneous evolution of ecology and power, the new system not only achieves the world's highest levels of environmental performance, but also uses hybrid power to raise the 'fun to drive' quotient to new heights."

Also being developed at a vigorous pace is the SUV-geared hybrid system which is paired with a V6 3.3-liter engine and the electric four-wheel-drive system E-Four. The result is a driving performance greater than that provided by a V8 4-liter engine, as well as revolutionary maneuverability and high levels of safety. This system provides the fuel efficiency of a compact-class vehicle, or two times that of the base vehicle of the S-HV1 and 2, placing them in what Cho has said "the highest tier of ultra-low emission SUVs."

If there's one trip that should be worth the while of a car buff, always, it should be the Tokyo Motor Show. Take it from me, bus mate.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Smoke belchers should be arrested and jailed if we want to breathe a clean air. They will only be released on bail pending commencement of their trial for harming not only us but also the environment.

Is the bull bar just a lot of bull?

From page H1

otherwise been spared from damage had the bull bar not been there.

"If this same vehicle hits a person, where exactly would the bull bar hit? At the ribs, but if the bull bar hits a child, it hits directly the head of the child," he states.

Loinaz adds that if a child is hit by the bumper alone, the child would merely fall down, and since the bumper is flat-shaped, the injury may not be necessarily as worse as when the child hits the protruding steel of a bull bar.

HIGH bull bar protrusion hit the back of the car, wrecking the whole rear panel. The impact also pressed the bull bar against the hood of the SUV. The car's rear panel, and the SUV's front could have been spared if there was no bull bar.

Philippine regulation

The INQUIRER acquired a copy of a Philippine regulation (administrative order 91-005 of the new motor vehicle inspection system) that requires the body of a motor vehicle should be free from any sharp edges or rotating protrusions that may endanger people and other vehicles in the highway.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, new LTO chief Anneli Lontoc says she is looking into the bull bar issue. LTO's traffic safety education chief Daisy Jacobo stresses that the right to accessorize one's property should be tempered with safety considerations for others.

"When you attach equipment meant to harm others, then it goes against good human relations," she says.

Auto manufacturers, she adds, should also be vocal about it. Most auto manufacturers already "complete the look" nowadays by using bumper overriders instead of bull bars.

Two automakers say that if the bull bar does not come from them, they could not warrant it against any damages or injuries it might cause.

Safety considerations

Loinaz stresses that in cases a bull bar is deemed necessary, it is important that the bull bar comes from the original design of manufacturers, since its makers have factored in basic considerations of safety.

"You will notice the bull bars sold by automakers are low bull bars with the basic understanding of safety," observes Loinaz.

He says there is a purpose to the bumper design. The initial consideration is to minimize economic losses in case of collision, but at the same time there is the less chance of bodily injury.

"Today, there are uniform bumper designs for cars so that when they collide with each other, the damage could be superficial," he adds.

To lessen potential damages to other motorists, trucks' bull bars are low-slung and flat, says Loinaz.

He says that in the end, however, the question of whether a bull bar is necessary or not depends on how its owner drives and respects others.

Says Loinaz: "In Canada, the first thing that will be said by the park ranger to a visiting motorist is, 'you are the visitor, and the animals are the residents here.' This could only mean the visitor must actually give way to the animals."

Not meant to harm

Rommel Ruedas, general contractor from Steel Works in Las Piñas (maker of conveyors for airport terminals) and part-time bull bar maker, says bull bars are not meant to harm pedestrians but to protect the headlight and hood in cases of collision with walls or posts. He makes regular bull bars for L300 vans for P4,000.

Leo Suzara, also a general contractor from Steel Works, says bull bars actually provide 2 to 3 percent more protection to the vehicle. "With or without bull bars, if the driver is not careful, he could still kill pedestrians," he adds.

Virgen Aguila of US Aguila Enterprises says he has had clients involved in collisions with posts or walls and went back to thank him for the bull bar he had installed.

"Several of my clients believe the bull bars lessened their expenses," he says. "Some even went to the extent of saying it had saved their lives."

According to him, he sells an average of five stainless bull bars a month. Front bull bars go for P7,500, back bull bar for P5,000 and side bull bar for P6,500.

Isuzu introduces 'Di Diesel Up!' campaign

ISUZU recently launched its "Direct Injection Diesel Up!" campaign that will run up to Dec. 20. As the leading authority in diesel technology, it embarked on this campaign in partnership with Total, the ideal fuel for Isuzu direct injection diesel engines.

A series of activities are lined up to reinforce the superiority of Isuzu's direct injection diesel engine. Among these are Di Diesel Up! kilometer log face-off contest, stick-on gig, trivia and driving clinic.

Di Diesel Up! Kilometer Log Face-Off Contest *(Oct. 20-Nov. 30)*—Searching for the Isuzu vehicle with the highest registered kilometer reading nationwide!

Open to all Isuzu vehicle owners of Hi-Lander Crosswind, Trooper, Fuego and N-Series class. Only one winner will be named per category.

Application forms are available at all accredited Isuzu dealerships nationwide and must be attached with a clear copy of the official receipt (OR) and certificate of registration (CR). Participating units must be in good running condition.

Winners will be awarded with P20,000 cash prize per vehicle category and premium items from Isuzu.

Di Diesel Up! Stick-On GIG *(Oct. 24-Nov. 17)*—Vehicles, regardless of brand and make, fueling up at any of the 11 designated Metro Manila Total stations will be given Isuzu Di Diesel Up! stickers for mounting on the windshield.

Owners spotted with mounted stickers on their units will automatically be given premium items from Isuzu or Total and qualify to win a cash prize when spotted during the grand draw on Dec. 13 at Isuzu Quezon Avenue. Stickering will be at the following Total service stations: Oct. 31 and Nov. 1—Fairview, 6-10 a.m.; Sucat, 4-8 p.m.; Nov. 2 and 3—Libis, 4-8 p.m.; Kamagong, 6-10 a.m.; Nov. 7 and 8—Shaw Boulevard, 4-8 p.m.; Kamagong, 7-11 a.m.; Nov. 9 and 10—Alabang, 6-10 a.m.; Edsa, 5-9 p.m.; Nov. 14 and 15—Valenzuela, 5-9 p.m.; Libis, 6-10 a.m.; Nov. 16 and 17—C5 Pasig, 5-9 p.m.; Sucat, 6-10 a.m.

In addition, all vehicles with the Di Diesel Up! sticker spotted in the following areas will be given special tokens: Nov. 21—Total Alabang, 5 p.m.; Nov. 22—Total Edsa, 6 p.m.; Nov. 28 and 29—Fort Bonifacio Global City, 10:30 a.m.

Owners of marked vehicles are then invited to proceed to Isuzu Quezon Avenue to fill out raffle stubs on Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-12 noon for a chance to win P10,000 (major prize), P5,000 (2nd prize), P3,000 (3rd prize) and P1,000 (consolation prize).

Di Diesel Up! Trivia *(Oct. 15-Nov. 30)*—One should get hold of the Di Diesel Up! flyer from any of the 20 authorized Isuzu dealerships nationwide or from Makro mailers.

The reply coupon found at the bottom of the flyer should be filled out and dropped at any Isuzu dealership. Three lucky winners will have a chance to win P10,000 cash prize which will be announced at the grand draw on Dec. 13 at Isuzu Quezon Avenue.

Di Diesel Up! Driving Clinic *(Nov. 22-Dec. 4)*—A seminar-test drive will be held in selected universities and companies for public awareness on the advantages of diesel.

Conducted by service training experts of Isuzu Philippines, the seminars aim to educate participants on the power, efficiency, safety and durability of diesel engine.

Di Diesel Up! campaign is a partnership between Isuzu Philippines and Total (Philippines).

A Rebel In The Ranks: The Nissan Frontier Titanium

THERE seems to be some unwritten rule in the world of pickups that calls for the best features to be automatically packaged as value-added accessories for the more expensive 4x4 models. 4x2 trucks, by tradition, are destined for the decidedly less glamorous role of the workhorse: utilitarian to the core, and bereft of many comforts, amenities and styling enhancements. They are the blue-collar characters, seemingly "second-class" citizens --- feature-wise --- to their hulking, all-wheel drive counterparts.

No longer.

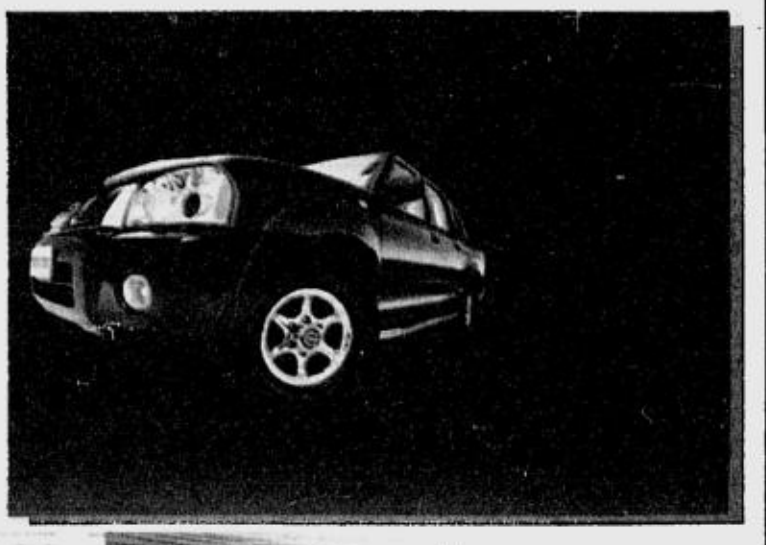
The folks at Universal Motors Corporation have just unveiled the latest vehicle to bear the Nissan Frontier badge. Christened the Titanium, this incarnation of the 4x2 pickup seems hell bent on challenging the common conception of the species. Far removed from the bare-bones aesthetic of its class, this latest Frontier sports bodywork and features previously seen only on its 4x4 brethren --- as well as a few refinements not found on any other compact pickup in the market (4x4 or otherwise).

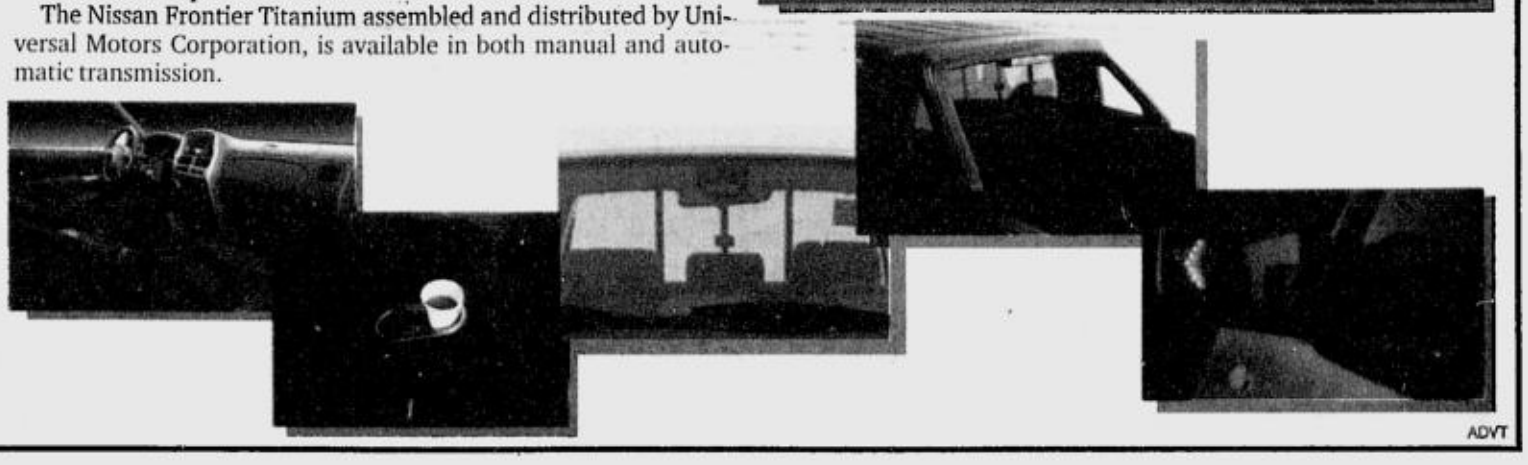
Indeed, the new Frontier appears to have been rebuilt from the ground up. Unlike conventional 4x2s that tiptoe on slender stock tires, the Frontier Titanium seems to hunker and crouch, gripping the ground with wider 15-inch chrome-dressed radials. It cuts a bulkier, much beefier profile as well. Foglamps set into the bumper give the Titanium an even meaner face. Notched fender flares lend the appearance of broader shoulders. And aluminum side step tubes only push the industrial edge even further.

The Titanium Edition also moves the Frontier 4x2 line many rungs up the style ladder. LED signal lamps now light up the side mirrors, in a styling trend patterned after today's posh SUVs. At the center of the windshield is a rain sensor that automatically triggers the wipers at the first hint of a downpour, a first in the pickup market. Just behind the cab, you can spot the unmistakable Frontier fashion bar with integrated 3rd brake lamp, the same one that used to ride only on the 4x4 models. The truck bed itself is armored with a sprayed-on bedliner, helping prevent scratches from cargo and hinting at the Frontier 4x2s true utilitarian roots.

Inside the vehicle, the changes are even more marked. The cabin is replete with new features and trimmings --- the kind usually reserved for the 4-wheel drive set. Engineers seemed to have taken a few styling cues from the Frontier's US version as well, for the cabin is now dressed in scarlet-stitched leather. A brushed aluminum panel adorns the dash, drawing the eyes to the main console of the all-new Clarion audio system. Refinements were also made in the passenger area, as the rear bench now features a fold-down center armrest with dual cupholders.

The Nissan Frontier Titanium assembled and distributed by Universal Motors Corporation, is available in both manual and automatic transmission.





ADVT

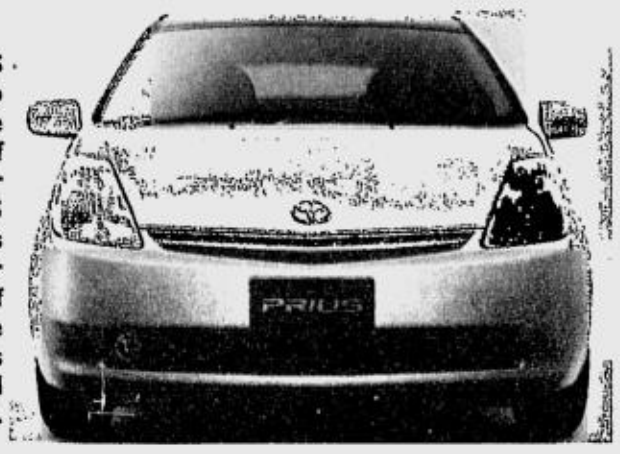
Toward the ultimate eco-car

CAN a car be developed that delivers driving pleasure as well as advanced environmental and safety features? A car that combines environment and excitement? Toyota Motor Corp. believes such an ultimate eco-car can be developed and is investing heavily to come up with it ahead of competitors. In 1997, Toyota initiated the Toyota Eco-Project, a multilateral approach toward establishing sustainable mobility that is kinder to the environment. The Toyota Eco-Project centers on hybrid technology and reduces environmental impact not only in vehicle development, but also in manufacturing, product use and recycling as well.

Toyota's progress so far in developing the ultimate eco-car was on full view at the 37th Tokyo Motor Show, which opened to the public last Saturday. Under the banner of "Eco x Emotion," Toyota displayed an advanced fuel cell hybrid vehicle (FCHV) with 4WD and intelligent drive-by-wire system; the world's first hybrid open sports car, a four-seater with mid-ship-mounted next-generation Toyota Hybrid System II (THS II) and E-Four (electric 4-wheel-drive system); and the SU-HV1, a powerful Sport Utility-Hybrid Vehicle.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



THE PRIUS is fun to drive because of a motor output 1.5 times greater than that of the previous hybrid system.

Star of the show

But the star of the show was the all-new Prius, the first generation of which was unveiled in December 1997 as the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle. The 2004 five-door Prius, equipped with THS II, not only achieves 35.5 km/liter mileage and ultra-low emissions, it is also fun to drive because of a motor output 1.5 times greater than that of the previous hybrid system. In fact, Toyota claims that the redefined Prius, using only a 1.5-liter gasoline engine and an electric motor, can outperform vehicles with 2.0-liter gasoline engines. Small wonder that 30,000 orders have already been received for the Prius, which began selling in Japan in September and in the United States this month. Around 120,000 units of the previous model Prius were sold in Japan and the US.

The Prius' handling and cruising stability have been enhanced by Toyota's Steering-Assisted Vehicle Stability Control System (S-VSC) and Electroshiftmatic gearshift. The new Prius also has the world's first Intelligent Parking Assist system that guides the driver in curbside parking and the EV drive mode whereby the driver can select motor-only operation for cleaner running and reduced noise during early morning or late night driving.

Sport utility vehicle enthusiasts, on the other hand, can look forward to Toyota's plan to release a hybrid SUV next year. This exciting promise is represented by the SU-HV1, which has E-Four and packs a 3.3-liter V6 engine paired with a 120kW motor and a 50kW rear motor for higher output and torque. The application of HybridSynergy Drive that is the basis of THS II, plus optimized gear ratios, delivers V8-level performance simultaneously with fuel efficiency and emissions on par with a compact car, or twice as good as an SUV of equal engine displacement.

Fuel cell hybrid

Toyota was not only the first to launch a mass-produced hybrid vehicle, it also led the way for the world's first commercial fuel cell hybrid vehicle (FCHV), a limited number of which was sold in Japan and the US last December. By the end of this year, Toyota plans to have about 20 FCHVs running on public roads in Japan and the US. In environmental technol-

TOWARD/ H4

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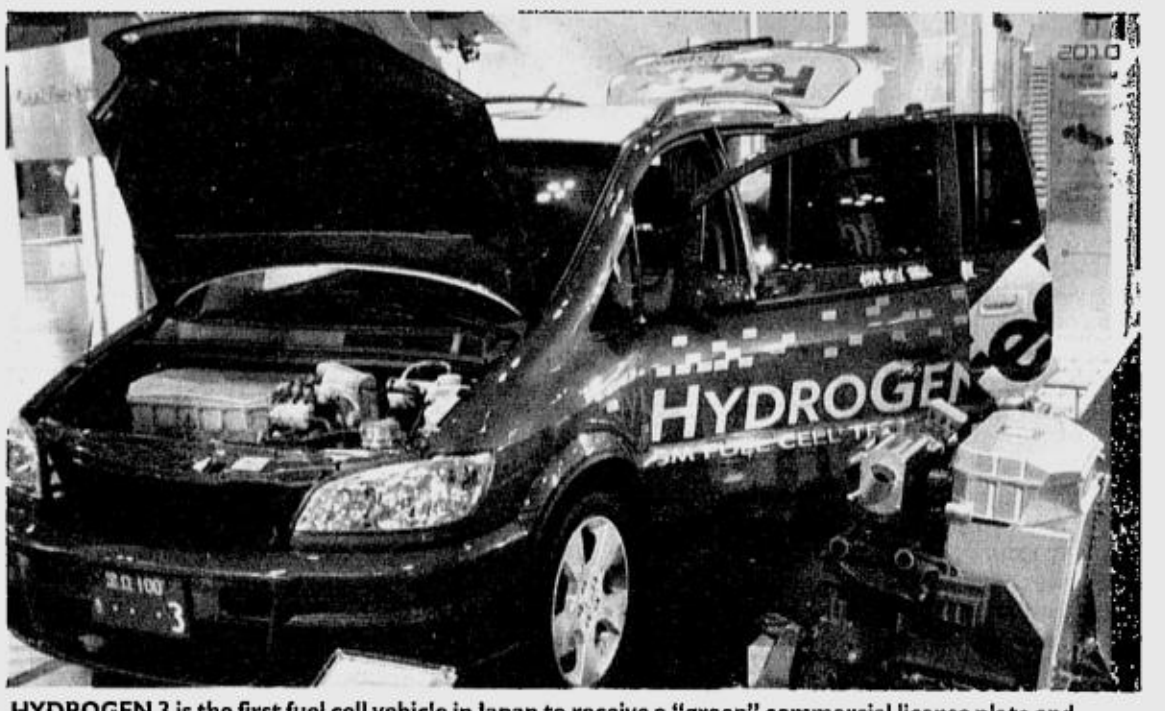
The future still green at Tokyo Motor Show



HYDROGEN 3 is the first fuel cell vehicle in Japan to receive a "green" commercial license plate and FedEx will use the vehicle on its regular delivery routes.

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

TOKYO—We have seen the automotive future and it's... well, it's still green.

This year's 37th Tokyo Motor Show at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture has a much clearer sense of where they see the automotive road to the future is heading, and it's toward fuel cells and hybrids.

For several years, automakers have been intriguing motor show audiences with their eco-friendly vehicles.

The difference this year is that the cars have made better use of such things as information technology that could be on the road in the near future.

WATER-SPEWING Honda FCX

Headline grabbers

Grabbing the headlines are all the usual suspects, including Honda Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp., with their latest entrants of next-generation vehicles that are easy on the environment.

Automakers have been stepping up the development of such cars, since their power units emit nothing but water, in the case of fuel cells.

Vehicles powered by fuel cells use an electrochemical reaction utilizing hydrogen and oxygen from air to create electricity to move a vehicle.

And with concern mounting as the global environment creeps toward the red line, automakers are rushing things up toward full commercialization of fuel cell vehicles.

FUKUI

Lower body height

Honda unveiled a concept car, Kiwami, with a fuel cell system whose hydrogen storage tank is located at the center of the vehicle, rather than at the front or back, enabling Honda to lower the body height of its vehicle to 1.25 meters.

"In addition to promising cleaner vehicles in the future, fuel cell technology gives us more freedom in powerplant layout, allowing us to innovate and make cars that please even more people," announced Honda president and CEO Takeo Fukui.

Honda's hydrogen-powered FCX is the only fuel cell vehicle certified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the US EPA for everyday commercial use.

Like a Civic

With an output of up to 80 horsepower and 201 foot-pounds of torque, acceleration is similar to a Honda Civic, according to its engineers. Water vapor is the only exhaust.

The FCX has an EPA-certified range of 170 miles and seating for four people, making it practical for a wide range of real-world applications.

Honda undertook fuel cell research in 1989 and has been road testing vehicles in the United States since 1999.

Honda plans to lease about 30 fuel cell cars in California and Japan during the next two to three years. However, the company currently has no plans for mass-market sales of fuel cell vehicles or sales to individuals.

Over $1B in investments

GM already has invested more than $1 billion in developing fuel cell technology and has set a target where the technology could be commercially viable by 2010.

Last June, GM's HydroGen3, a fuel cell prototype based on the GM Opel Zafira minivan, joined a FedEx delivery fleet in Tokyo, the first commercial test of a fuel cell vehicle in Japan, which is now also on display at the show.

The HydroGen3 is powered by a 94-kilowatt fuel cell stack and has enough power to reach 100 mph (about 161 kph) with crisp acceleration.

Hybrid vehicles

Also on display at the show are a number of hybrid vehicles, which use electric motors at slow speeds and are assisted with gasoline engines at higher speeds.

Under the banner of "Ecology and Emotion," Toyota's vehicles at this year's show propose advanced hybrid technology for the environment and explore new concepts.

The company became famous with its Prius, the world's first and best-selling hybrid passenger car.

It has been certified as a Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (Sulev) and an Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (AT-PZEV) category vehicle in California and those states adopting California standards.

On sale this month

The company announced its second-generation 2004 Prius will go on sale this month, which features a bigger, more powerful, nearly 90 percent cleaner for smog-forming emissions than the average vehicle, and has EPA fuel estimates of 60 city, 51 highway and 55 combined.

The second-generation Prius is the first Toyota product to employ Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive, gas-electric hybrid powertrain technology.

In addition to the improved fuel economy and lower emissions, Hybrid Synergy Drive produces more power from both the gasoline engine and electric motor, giving the new Prius acceleration comparable to the four-cylinder Toyota Camry sedan.

STP lubricant spray provides various benefits for metal parts

LIKE the human body, machines need a lubricating component to ensure they can function smoothly and efficiently without the damages of rust and corrosion. In the case of humans, it's fat.

For metal parts, it's a lubricant that should penetrate even hard-to-reach spots. This is essential in today's highly technical, mechanized society, where lack of lubrication and corrosion can cause deterioration that can lead to partial or complete malfunction.

Penetrating lubricant

STP, which stands for Scientifically Treated Petroleum, has a product specifically designed for this purpose, the Multipurpose Lubricant Spray.

The product is a highly effective penetrating lubricant containing a dewatering agent and a moisture repellant.

Lab tests have proven that STP Multipurpose Lubricant Spray can break through rusted parts and sticky mechanisms to lubricate, and prevents and rectifies electrical short circuits due to moisture.

STP Multipurpose Lubricant Spray was specifically developed for a wide variety of use.

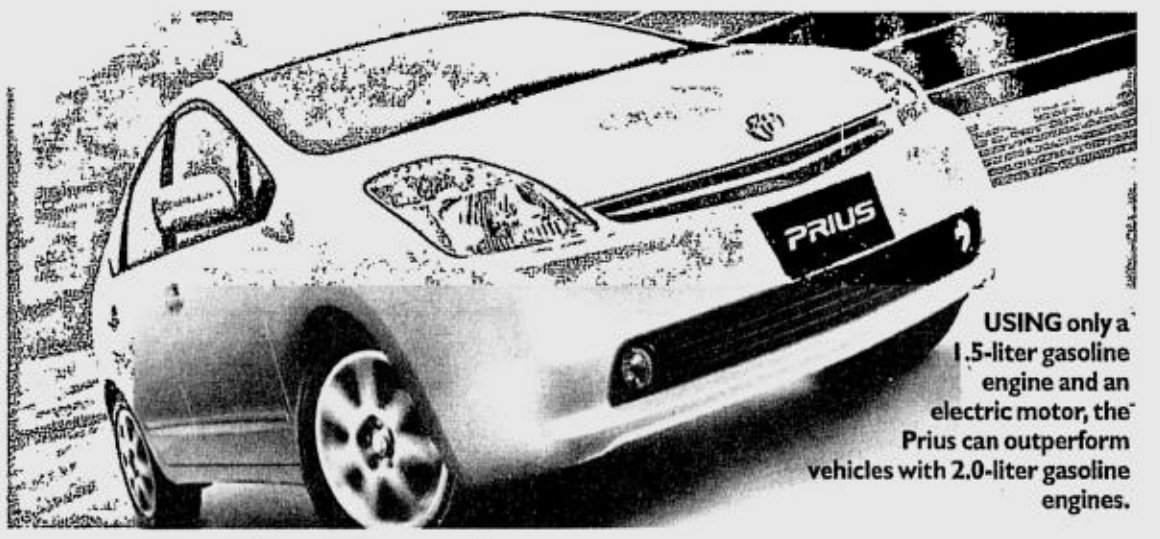
The ingenious lubricant spray can be used to free seized bolts and valves to ensure smooth operation. It can also clean and dry out electrical switches, relays, electromechanical equipment; stop squeaks, free sticky hinges and locks; and leave long-lasting protective coating.

The multi-purpose effect of STP's Lubricant Spray can also be used on locks and chains, bicycles, wheels, nuts and bolts, switches, fishing reels, motors, hinges and handles, bearings, electric terminals, cables or pulleys, other machinery and tools, even guns.

Benefits

Its maximum benefits likewise offer desired results for your vehicle. It dries distributor or ignition wires and spark plugs to enable damp start; lubricates door locks and handles; and cleans cables, chains and linkages.

The "cleaning" benefits further work against dirt from stainless steel, chrome, copper and brass; oil deposits and tar from paintwork, as well as metal parts and can displace water. It's also very easy to use. Just spray on as required on the desired part and leave on.



USING only a 1.5-liter gasoline engine and an electric motor, the Prius can outperform vehicles with 2.0-liter gasoline engines.

Toward the ultimate eco-car

From page H3

ogy, Toyota enjoys a competitive edge because it develops all main components and key technologies in-house and independently. All these, plus Toyota's decision to supply hybrid systems to Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. starting in 2006, confirm Toyota's leadership in hybrid technology. But while Toyota considers hybrid technology the core of its environment-related R&D, the automaker does not regard it as simply a steppingstone on the way to the age of fuel cell vehicles. Toyota believes hybrid technology will dominate the eco-car market and eventually evolve to form the basis of the ultimate eco-car. With the creation of an environment-friendly motorized world in mind, Toyota intends to continue integrating its hybrid systems with gasoline engines, diesel engines, alternative energy vehicles and fuel cell vehicles.

* * *

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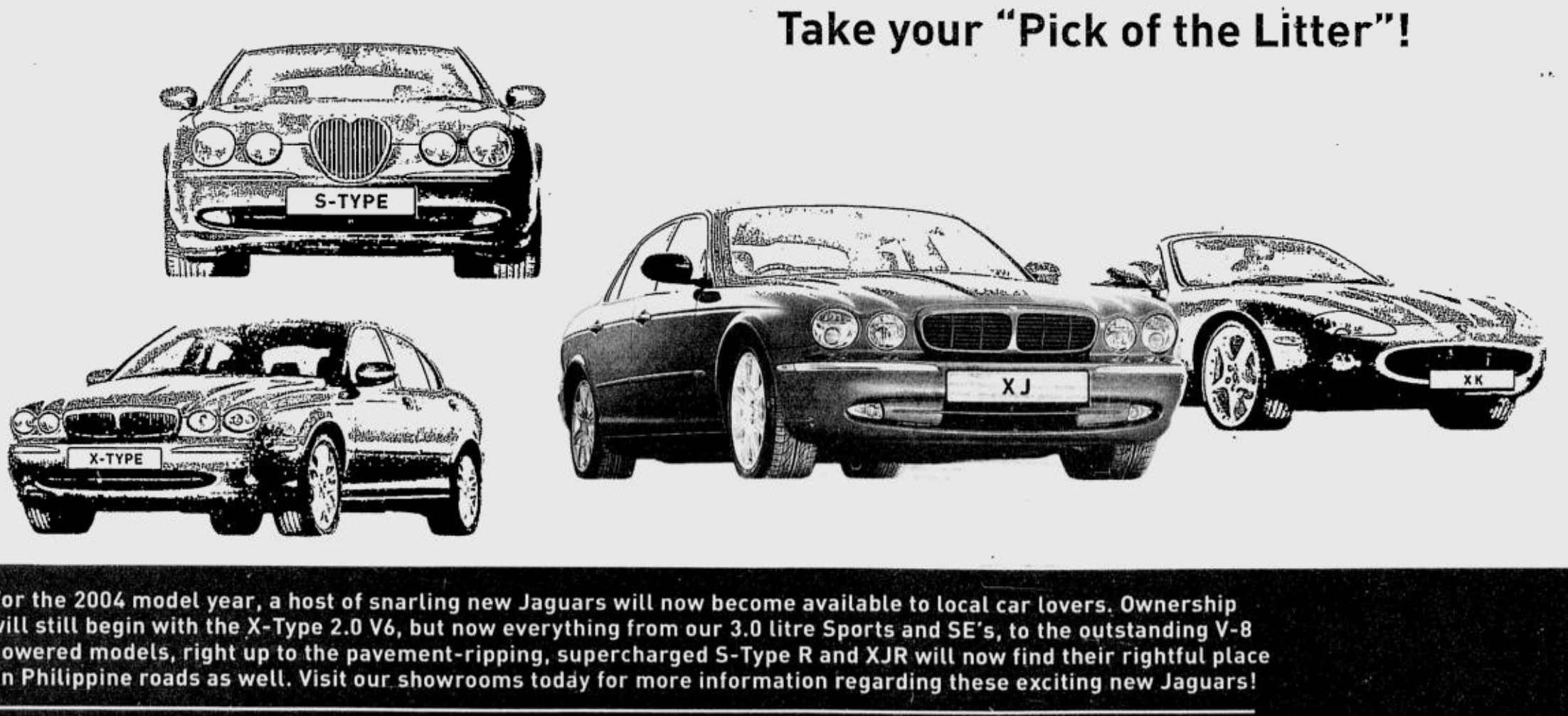

For the 2004 model year, a host of snarling new Jaguars will now become available to local car lovers. Ownership will still begin with the X-Type 2.0 V6, but now everything from our 3.0 litre Sports and SE's, to the outstanding V-8 powered models, right up to the pavement-ripping, supercharged S-Type R and XJR will now find their rightful place on Philippine roads as well. Visit our showrooms today for more information regarding these exciting new Jaguars!

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